THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Stars ...
John Hennessy reports from Sarajevo as Torvill and Dean begin their quest for Olympic gold in the ice dance contest.



of David
How will the crisis in Lebanon affect Israel's foreign policy? Christopher Walker analyses the reaction in Jerusalem.

Union ...
Woodrow Wyatt argues in favour of postal ballots for all union members.

and Confederacy
Saturday section includes a guided tour around the civil war sites of the deep south in the US.

Plumbing ...
The latest designs in bathroom fittings.

the depths
How swimming pools have caught up with the leisure boom.

Miners call for blockade of imports

Miners' leaders are to ask five transport unions to impose a blockade of coal imports, in an attempt to intensify the 14-week pit overtime ban. A conference of unions representing the train drivers, railwaymen, seamen, steelworkers and transport and general workers will organize the ban Page 2

MP resigns from committee

Mr John Gorst, Conservative MP for Hendon North, has resigned as unofficial leader of the Tory MPs on the Commons committee investigating the GCHQ ban on union membership after complaining about excessive pressure from the whips

Space docking

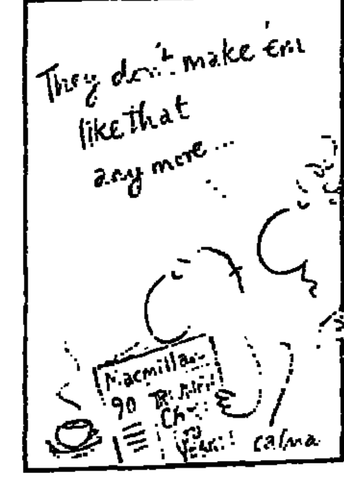
The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz T10 docked with the orbiting Salyut Station 7. Approach stages were controlled automatically, while docking was done by the Soyuz crew.
Shuttle setback, page 8

'Resign' call

Mr Enoch Powell called for the resignation of Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, over the report into the Maze prison break-out Parliament, page 4

TV-am warning

The commercial television network will be without a breakfast station for up to a year in the event of TV-am collapsing Page 2



Maxwell rival

A consortium of Manchester businessmen has put in a rival bid against Robert Maxwell for Manchester United, saying they would set up a trust

British civilians to leave Beirut as chaos grows

- **British residents in west Beirut have been told to go to the embassy along the coast to be evacuated by helicopter**
- **In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher defended the decision to withdraw the troops before rescuing British subjects (Page 8)**
- **America last night resumed its massive *naval bombardment of Druze artillery* positions in the mountains east of Beirut**
- **Rockets were yesterday fired from Lebanon into Galilee for only the second time since the Israeli invasion in June, 1982 (Page 8)**
- **Syria wants Britain and Europe to launch a peace initiative in the Middle East without American involvement (Page 8)**
- **Security Council members met privately last night to consider whether UN *peacekeepers could replace the multinational* force in Beirut (Page8)**

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

As the civil war between Muslim militias and Christian Phalangists intensified along the front line in Beirut yesterday, more than 150 British residents in the western sector of the city were told to gather outside their embassy on the Mediterranean coastline today. They are to be evacuated by helicopter, either to a British ship or north to the Christian-held port of Jounieh.

The International Red Cross, meanwhile, made several appeals for oxygen to be brought across the front line to hospitals in West Beirut, and announced that it was trying to rescue 2,000 Lebanese civilians who have been trapped – half of them for a week in cellars – in the battlefield in the centre of the capital.

After dark last night the Americans resumed their massive naval barrage against the Druze-held mountains east of Beirut. Firing after the Christian sector of Beirut had itself come under bombardment, the destroyer Moosbrugger began shooting at what the Americans described as artillery positions in the hills with five-inch shells, while gunfire from Phalangist artillery and Christian units of the Lebanese Army was directed at the same targets.

The Christian East Beirut sector came under sustained artillery fire all day from Druze guns in the mountains while Phalangist militias and Christian units of the Lebanese Army bombarded the Druze in the Metn and Chouf.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, complained bitterly about the 10-hour American bombardment of the Metn and Chouf on Wednesday by the Sixth Fleet battleship New Jersey, saying that two entire Druze villages had been wiped out by the half-ton shells.

Plans for a British evacuation had earlier been delayed by rough seas that forced the Greek ferryboat Sol Georgos, which was to have taken evacuees to Cyprus, to anchor off Jounieh overnight.

The 150 Britons, only a fraction of the thousand or so British subjects in Beirut, have been told to bring only one suitcase with them to the seafront Corniche. A telex message from the Embassy, which still has no telephone lines, added bluntly: "No pets or weapons will be permitted."

The Red Cross said yesterday evening that, with wounded still being brought into hospitals in West Beirut, only seven oxygen canisters now remained for doctors to use, all of them at the American University Hospital. It had so far been impossible to arrange a truce to bring more oxygen from East Beirut.

A Red Cross official said that in the area of Galérie Seeman a thousand local residents had been hiding in cellars since the battles began there on Thursday last week, and a further thousand people were unable to leave a triangle of territory in the centre of the city west of the museum, as shells had been falling into and around their homes for four days.

Their was little enough hope from either President Gemayel or his opponents yesterday that the fighting would slacken. Mr Jumblatt said in Damascus that the fighting would continue until Mr Gemayel resigned, and he warned that "US interests" in Lebanon (an expression he did not define) would be in danger if the Sixth Fleet bombardment of the Druze-held mountains continued.

Continued on back page, col 5

Reagan loses credibility over withdrawal of Marines

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, still refusing to break his holiday during a second day of American bombardment of central Lebanon and areas east of Beirut, yesterday lost critical political ground amid deepening confusion about the US military role and the timescale for withdrawing American Marines.

French and Italian government representatives in Washington last night made no secret of their disenchantment with Mr Reagan's handling of the pull-back announcement. "We could not keep up with what was going on, there were no consulations", a senior French embassy official said. "That is probably why (our troops) are still there."

Meanwhile Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary told a Congressional hearing that the US shelling of Syrian Positions in Lebanon was to support the Lebanese army and to show that the marine pullback did not mean a weakened US commitment.

He Maintained the Lebanese Army had not fallen apart.

"Reports that the army has disintegrated are not only premature but quite wrong," he said.

Mr Weinberger was one of the first senior administration officials to testify publicly to Congress on President Reagan's surprise announcement on Tuesday that the 1,600 Marines in the international peace-keeping force in Beirut would be pulled back in stages to US ships offshore.

Domestically the signs of relief from Republicans and Democrats over the withdrawal dissipated yesterday as it became clear that there was no clear timetable for redeployment to warships off the Lebanese coast. One senior Congressman suggested after receiving a high-level briefing that the pullout of all 1,600



President Reagan: Riding horses, chopping wood.

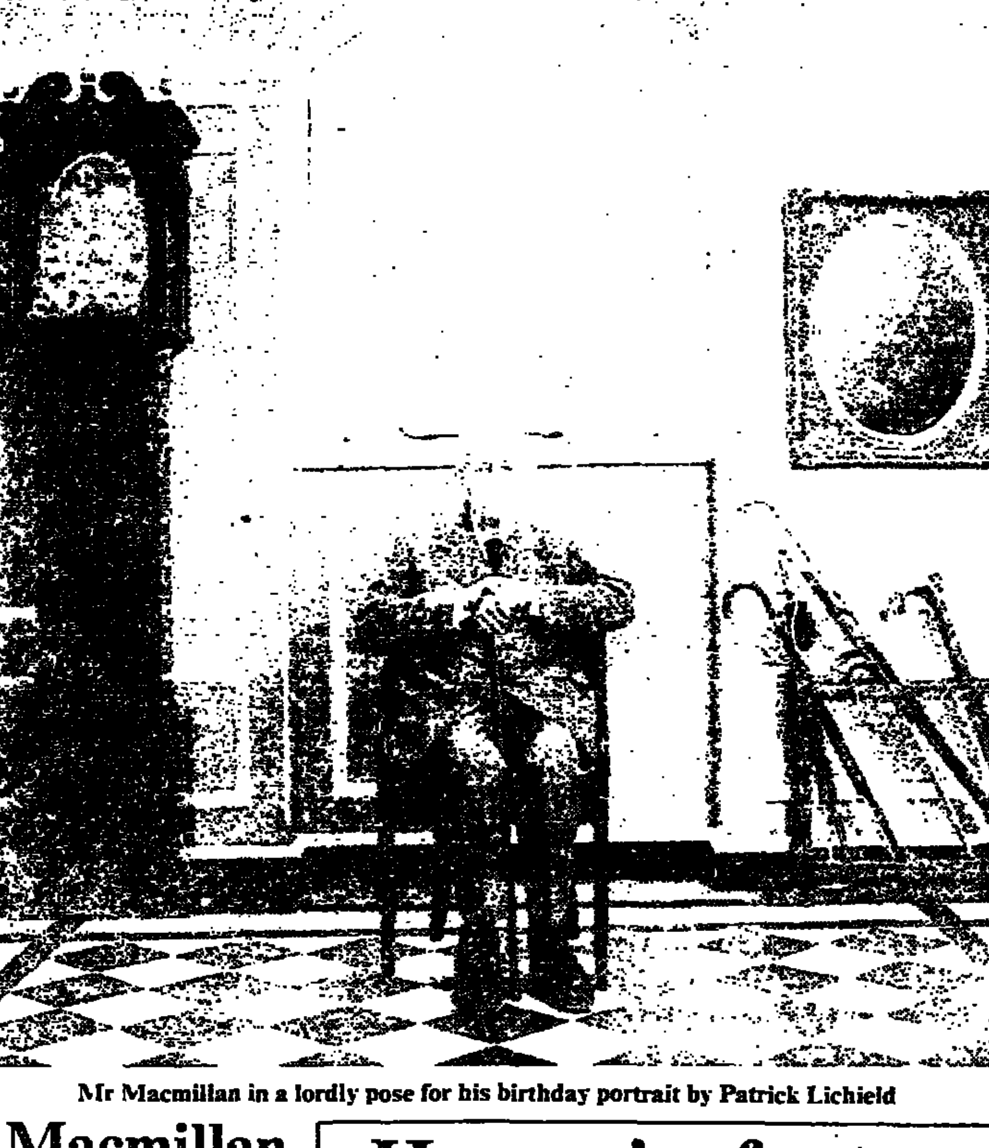
troops might take four months. Mr Weinberger still has not presented the President with a sspecific pullout programme.

Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, echoed widespread Congressional sentiment by demanding a fast and complete withdrawal. "I would not be dragging my feet if I were you" he told Mr Weinberger

The White House confirmed that the battleship New Jersey was again in action off Lebanon yesterday and that there had been more firing in the area of the US Embassy in East Beirut. President Reagan, according to the White House, was riding horses, chopping wood and clearing brush at his California ranch.

He received a cabled report from Mr Donald Runsfeld, his Middle East envoy, on the outcome of earlier talks with President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon. Mr Reagan also had telephone consultations with Vice-President George Bush during the afternoon but has steadfastly kept out of the public eye.

Few congressmen expected the American bombardment of Lebanon to be so relentless



Mr Macmillan in a lordly pose for his birthday portrait by Patrick Lichield

Macmillan gets 90th birthday earldom

By Julian Haviland and Alan Hamilton

Mr Harold Macmillan has been granted an earldom to mark his ninetieth birthday today. He is the first earl to have been created for 21 years.

It is also just over 21 years since he resigned and declined the earldom traditionally offered to former Prime Ministers in those days.

He told his friends he preferred to remain "plain Mr Macmillan", as he had always been.

The Buckingham Palace announcement at midnight said: "The Queen had been graciously pleased to approve that the dignity of an Earldom of the United Kingdom be conferred upon the Right Honourable Maurice Harold Macmillan, OM."

Nothing was *known* last night about the titles he will take but his heir, Mr Maurice Macmillan, will become the honorary bearer of his secondary title, a viscountcy.

There remain only two former Prime Ministers who are still plain mister – Edward Heath and James Callaghan.

Mr Macmillan is celebrating tonight with a private dinner party at Birch Grove, his Sussex home, for his family of three living children, 15 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, and with a lunch party tomorrow for friends, including the three other living Conservative Prime Ministers, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Mr Edward Heath and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Oxford University has invited him as Chancellor to a private dinner party in the grand hall of his own old college, Balloil, next week.

Mr Macmillan, grandson of the Scotsman from the Isle of Arran who founded the family publishing house, was born in London in 1894, when Queen Victoria was still three years from her diamond jubilee, and *less than a month before* Gladstone's retirement from his fourth and final tenure of office.

He is within reach of a record for prime ministerial longevity – he has already outlived Gladstone by two years and only Churchill has claimed a longer span.

His birthday celebrations, however, will not include a display of his style as a public speaker. His eyesight no longer permits him to read, and he has only to rely entirely on talking books for the blind.

Hopes rise for tax cuts in Budget

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is likely to have considerably more room in his Budget next month to cut taxes or reduce public borrowing than has so far been suggested.

The public spending White Paper, to be published next Thursday, will show spending running only fractionally ahead of plans this year after earlier fears of a substantial overshoot.

The White Paper estimates that state spending in 1983-84 will total £120.3 billion, only £700m more than forecast last March. Last autumn spending appeared to be running £2 billion to £3 billion over target, and the Treasury raised its estimate of public borrowing from £8 billion to £10 billion.

The lower-than-expected spending overrun, coupled with more buoyant tax revenues than predicted, suggests the revised figure will prove too high.

The Treasury now believes that the spending spree by government departments which began last spring has run its course. The £500m cut in departmental budgets announced in July has begun to bite and officials are clearly confident that there will be no repetition of the end-of-year surge in spending which took them by surprise last year.

In addition, some programmes like the Youth Training Scheme, have been over budgetted and the Government has sold extra assets and drawn down most of the contingency reserve to cover overshoots elsewhere.

Public spending is planned to rise by about 5 per cent in cash terms in 1984-85 to £126.4 billion, increasing to about £137 billion in 1986-87, the last year of the published projections.

The plans assume that after adjusting for inflation spending will remain broadly unchanged. This suggests that the Government is working on the basis of 5 per cent inflation in 1984-85, falling to 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 3.5 per cent in 1986-87, in line with the Chancellor's ultimate goal of price stablility.

The latest figures suggest Mr Lawson could afford significent tax cuts within his public borrowing target of £8 billion for 1984-85, or use the savings to reduce borrowing further, for example, to take some account of sales of public assets.

The White Paper will also include a new presentation of capital spending by the public sector, designed to deflect criticism that investment has borne a disproportionate share of spending cuts.

It will show that public investment has remained roughly constant in real, inflation-adjusted terms over the past five years

Others 'may bid for Scott Lithgow'

By Staff Reporters

The Prime Minister assured anxious Opposition MPs yesterday that the conditional agreement for the sale of the Scott Lithgow shipyard by British Shipbuilders to Trafalgar House did not preclude other companies from making the purchase. But she said that time was short and she deplored the "apparent rejection" by the trade unions of a chance to retain 1,000 to 2,000 jobs on the Clyde. Yesterday the entire day shift of 2,000 workers at Scott Lithgow walked out in protest.

Labour and Liberal spokesmen in the Commons showed themselves deeply uneasy that British Shipbuilders might be on the point of concluding a deal with a purchaser which was not the best guarantor of future employment and not likely to offer the most favourable terms.

Mr Norman Godman, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow, said last night that he intended to question ministers on the proposed sale to Trafalgar House.

He is to ask Scottish Office ministers to ensure that any contract for sale of the yard – scheduled for the end of the month – take fully into account the high freehold value, put at scores of millions of pounds, of the land around the site.

He is also to ask Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, whether he will ensure that British Shipbuilders' judgment of the suitability of Trafalgar House as buyer of the yard is not influenced by any penalties for which it may be liable as a result of delay in the building of a replacement vessel for the Atlantic Conveyor at the Swan Hunter yard on the Tyne.

Trafalgar House issued last night a firm rebuttal of suggestions that the conditional deal with British Shipbuilders had been rushed through in secret and that the firm might strip the assets from Scott Lithgow once it had acquired the business.

Scott Lithgow's assets have a book value of between £17m and £18m, but British Shipbuilders estimates their real value to be much less, probably between £2.5m and £5m. As well as the rig building yard, the company owns about three and a half miles of lower Clyde waterfront land.

Trafalgar House said: "We do not plan to sell off the land at this stage". But the company made clear that it would "cooperate" if another company emerged to take over Scott Lithgow's submarine work for the Ministry of Defence.

It is also possible that some of the land may be made available if an essential supplier to the yard was sort of space and able to employ surplus labour. "But we are taking over

Continued on back page, col 1

Cut likely to be short-lived

Petrol price falls 4p a gallon

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Esso, Britain's largest petrol company, is cutting the price of four-star petrol by 3½p a gallon from today. With the reduction in VAT, pump prices at Eso's 3,400 filling stations will drop by 4p to 179.6p.

The other leading petrol companies, Shell, BP, Texaco and Mobil, are likely to follow with similar price cuts by the weekend.

Esso, which has a 19 per cent share of the market, has led the price cutting at a time of high stocks and falling demand. Prices of crude oil have remained steady over the past weeks and stocks have built up.

However, the period of cheaper petrol will be short. The industry expects tax-changes in the Budget to add as much as 8p a gallon to four-star.

Officials in the big four petrol companies have been predicting since the autumn that petrol prices would have to fall to below 180p a gallon this winter to stimulate demand.

Local price cutting has taken place as higher profit margins – most petrol stations make about 7p on a gallon – have given the companies room to stimulate demand.

Esso had decided to embark on a national price cut rather than support retailers in areas where competition from the smaller independent oil companies has led to price reductions.

Other companies have been offering extra services like late-opening grocery outlets.

The likelihood of price rises in the Budget comes after oil company figures which show that apart from West Germany, Britain has the lowest petrol prices in the EEC.

Priority for personal tax relief

**By Philip Webster
Political Reporter**

The Cabinet appeared to have reached agreement yesterday that priority should be given in Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget to personal rather than company tax reliefs.

At their customary pre-Budget discussion, lasting about 90 minutes, ministers seemed to have achieved a remarkable degree of consensus over the measures which they believe the Chancellor of the Exchequer should bring forward on March 13.

While the possibility of a small tax increase, threatened by Mr Lawson in the autumn, has clearly been removed, so too has the likelihood of cuts in income tax.

Ministers who have argued against the Government setting out on a campaign of tax-cutting early in the life of its second term clearly believe that they have won the argument. But there was agreement that Mr Lawon should concentrate on raising tax thresholds to increase incentives and help workers who might otherwise be caught in the poverty trap.

Mr Lawson, who confirmed in the Commons yesterday afternoon that he is to go ahead and publish a Green Paper on public expenditure and taxation prospects into the 1990s, had earlier presented the Cabinet with an optimistic forecast of prospects for output and inflation.

His forecast that the economy was expected to continue to grow at an annual rate of about 3 per cent over the next 18 months, faster than many other European countries, was apparently one of the factors that persuaded ministers that he

English gamblers win Irish mansion raffle

By Staff Reporters

Six members of a gambling syndicate from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, were celebrating with champagne last night after winning a £750,000 Irish mansion in a raffle.

The six, five men and a woman, held the winning £175 ticket in the raffle for Middleton Park, a 30-room stately home set in almost 380 acres of co Westmeath countryside 50 miles from Dublin.

The ticket was one of 9,000 sold world-wide by a Northern Ireland professional gambler and racing enthusiast, Mr Barney Curley, in a contest

The six members of the winning syndicate were persuaded to contribute to the cost of two £175 tickets by Mr Tony Ray of Bungalow Farm, Fiddington, Tewkesbury, who owns two businesses dealing in agricultural supplies.

"It's an incredible piece of news. I saw the competition advertised in a farming paper and mentioned it to the others who, I know, are not adverse to the odd bet now and again", Mr Ray, aged 40 said.

"Because of the odds we thought we had a reasonable chance of winning, but when the call came through my first thought was that it must be a

Walter Malcolm, aged 62, and Mr Hugh Smiley, aged 65 – work for Mr Ray. A fifth, Mr Bill Rammage, aged 60, is a customer.

Mr Ray said: "Whatever we decide to do with it, it will be business as normal in the future. We may sell it, we may run it. We shall have to decide once everybody has got over the initial shock. However, we work as a team and I am sure an agreement will be reached which will be acceptable to us all."

The six have so far seen only a prospectus of the mansion, but Mr Ray is hoping to go to the Irish Republic within the

Mr Curley may face prosecution after a raid on Middleton Park by police investigating the lagality of the draw. Organizers of a lottery in the Irish Republic cannot get a permit if it is held for their benefit.

However, Mr Curley says that his draw is legal because every subscriber automatically became a member of a local gaelic athletic association, to which he is giving a share of the proceeds.

Middleton Park was once owned by the Boyd Rochford family, trainers of the Queen's

Miners to ask transport unions to impose coal imports blockade

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Miners' leaders have decided to tighten up the 14-week overtime ban in the pits by calling on transport unions to blockade on imports of foreign coal.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Miners, said after his union executive's meeting in Sheffield yesterday that the overtime ban was having a "quite staggering" effect, with coal stocks at pitheads and power stations being progressively run down.

A conference of five unions – the train drivers, railwaymen, seamen, steelworkers and transport and general workers – is to be held in the next 10 days to organize the import ban, which Mr Scargill hopes will block the five million tonnes of foreign coal which comes into Britain a year.

He said that the general secretaries of the five unions had already given their personal support to the blockade and he believed its imposition would bring added pressure on the National Coal Board and the Government.

Coal is brought into Britain from several other countries, either because it is cheaper or because it is of different gradings for mixing in coal-burning power stations.

Mr Scargill said that the evertime ban had led to about seven million tonnes of lost production.

When allowance was made for 20 per cent "degradation" of stocks which were unusable because they had been lying too long on the ground, 22 million tonnes were being held at pitheads compared with 31 million tonnes when the ban started, he said.

Mr Scargill calculated that on a similar basis, stocks at power stations had fallen from 35 million tonnes to 22.5 million tonnes.

Those figures are at variance with statistics issued by the board two days ago, which claimed that stocks at pitheads and power stations were higher than at the same time last year.

The board said that by the end of last month collieries held 23.5 million tonnes and almost 28.8 million tonnes was stockpiled at power stations. It also said that miners lost £51.3m in wages since the dispute started.

Mr Scargill said that the National Coal Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board could no longer hide the real position because the ban was "far more effective than anyone in this industry ever envisaged".

The blockade of imports would make it even more effective. He said that there had been calls from several parts of the country for the dispute to be stepped up.

That would not happen for the time being because "we believe it is highly successful at this stage", he said.

Acceptance of the board's 5.2 per cent pay offer by the 160,000-strong British Association of Colliery Management would have no effect on the NUM position, Mr Scargill said, as the colliery managers had never in the past supported the union.

He also disclosed that he could, later this year, become president of a new Miners' International, bringing together mining unions from almost 70 countries. There would be a strong bias in the new organization of unions with communist backing or left-wing leaderships.

A conference in Sheffield is likely to be held in May when final preparations will be made for the launch of the new body. The secretary is likely to be drawn from the French mining union, which is part of the communist-led Confédération Général du Travail.

● Left-wing hopes that Mr Ronald Todd will be elected general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union were boosted yesterday when Mr Alex Kitson, present deputy general secretary, dropped out of the race.

French coal losses, page 19



Street politics: Mr Maxwell Payne, the Liberals' by-election candidate and a declared anti-unilateralist, discussing the issues with voters in Chesterfield open market (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Benn fears Lebanon nuclear war

From Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent
Chesterfield

Mr Wedgwood Benn said yesterday he feared American intervention in the Middle East could start a nuclear war involving Britain.

Mr Benn, Labour candidate in the Chesterfield by-election, said at a public meeting: "President Reagan is a reckless man. His oath of office makes it impossible for him to consult the British Government before they use cruise missiles, and what I am afraid of is that Reagan gets into a war in Lebanon.

"I heard the shells from the USS New Jersey firing on the eight o'clock news this morning – a marvellous example of a peacekeeping force – and a result of American adventurism in the Middle East may be nuclear war in which we would be involved because Greenham Common is an American base."

Mr Nicholas Bourne, the Conservative candidate, who also attended the meeting, was asked about Mr Enoch Powell's criticism that government policy slavishly followed an American line.

He said: "Enoch Powell os often out on a limb and I think he is out on a limb on this as well."

He said the British troops had played a role as part of a United Nations initiative, and that the Government had been right to go into Beirut and right to withdraw.

Mr Benn pointed out that it was not a UN peacekeeping force "it was an American force".

He said of Mr Bourne: "It is nice to know that he is in favour of going in and in favour of coming out. That is what a loyal Conservative does when a Prime Minister does a zig-zag".

Mr Maxwell Payne, the Liberal candidate, did not attend the meeting but tonight he will be at a CND rally with Mr Benn.

Mr Payne said yesterday he takes a robustly Alliance view of disarmament even though Liberal policy had previously tended to oppose the continuation of the independent nuclear deterrent.

IBA would not replace TV-am for up to year

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The commercial television network will be without a breakfast station for up to a year if TV-am collapses.

As talks on redundancies and economies at the company continued yesterday, the Independent Broadcasting Authority ruled out a stopgap service, possibly involving ITN, to take over the morning slot.

TV-am's immediate future is likely to be decided today, when members of the unions most affected by the call for redundancies vote on the issue. Unless the company can win significant gains in job cuts affecting up to 90 staff, it will not receive a £2m rescue package prepared by key investors.

But IBA sources predicted that the authority would be in no hurry to replace TV-am if the company failed, a possibility which alarms the authority. No commercial television company has gone under before.

The only casualty in the commercial broadcasting network was Leicester's Centre Radio, which went into voluntary liquidation in October.

The authority advertised for applications for the Leicester franchise this week, but it is unlikely, in the event of a TV-am collapse, that a similar invitation would be issued for some time.

The authority believes that it has done everything it can to enable TV-am to stand on its own feet. The station had been allowed to defer all equipment rental payments due to the authority since it went on air, had its programme slot extended by 15 minutes, and been given more peak-time advertising.

IBA officials say that there are no more "subsidies" avaiable to TV-am under the Broadcasting Act which the authority can implement.

The seven other consortia which were in competition with TV-am for the franchise are no longer active, and there is some doubt over how actively a new licence might be pursued if the BBC were allowed a monopoly of breakfast television for up to a year.

A stopgap service would probably be politically unacceptable for the IBA, which wants to defend the strengths of the franchise system. It would, in any case, probably have to rely heavily on the services of ITN, "and one of the lessons of TV-am is that people don't want hard news at breakfast", one executive said.

Mr James Lee, now chief executive of Goldcrest, the independent film and television company, said however that his consortium could have been profitable with TV-am's audience because of lower costs.

Dr Jones questioned by police for 7 hours

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Robert Jones, whose wife was found murdered in a Suffolk wood last year, was released after nearly seven hours of questioning by police in Ipswich last night.

Det Chief Supt Eric Shields, who is leading the murder inquiry, said after interviewing the doctor that a report would be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It was the fifth time since his wife, Diana, aged 35, vanished after the couple had an argument in their local public house at Coggeshall in Essex that Dr Jones, aged 40, had been questioned by detectives.

Dr Jones refused to comment as he left the police station at Ipswich. His solicitor, Mr David Church, said: "Dr Jones, during the course of today, has answered questions put to him by the police and he has been released unconditionally."

While police were questioning him, uniformed men supported by Army bomb disposal personnel, dug up parts of the garden at Dr Jones' £100,000 farmhouse.

Mrs Jones's body was found three months after she disappeared by beaters on a pheasant-shoot in undergrowth at Brightwell in Suffolk, 30 miles from their home. Police launched their murder inquiry with an appeal to men friends of Mrs Jones to come forward.

Investigation of Aston Villa leads to charges

Several men are to be prosecuted after a police investigation of the financial affairs of Aston Villa Football Club.

West Midlands police confirmed last night that those mentioned in the summonses include the late Mr Ronald Bendall, former club chairman, and Mr J D Lloyd, the present chairman of Port Vale Football Club. The charges include conspiracy to defaud, obtaining money by deception, and incitement to commit fraud.

The prosecutions come in the wake of more than 16 month's work by the force's commercial branch.

After the police inquiry a file was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions. In a statement last night the police said that prosecutions had been directed against several men.

It added: "Mr Terry Rutter, of Witton, Birmingham, and Mr Harry Marsden, of Stockport, Cheshire, with their now-liquidated company Sports Ground Consultants, are accused of obtaining money by deception from Aston Villa and with conspiracy to defraud the Football Grounds Improvement Trust". Mr Bendall is mentioned with them.

£200m grant to hill farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government yesterday bowed to pressure from the National Farmers' Union and agreed to release nearly £200m in grants to hill farmers.

Payment had been held up since the beginning of the year because of the failure of EEC ministers to agree on reform of the common agricultural policy and on a new agricultural budget.

Although three quarters of the money comes from the Exchequer, and only a quarter from Brussels, the Treasury had feared that to authorize payment might be illegal under Community rules.

But Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that hill farmers are in a critical situation, with bills to be paid and little or no income at this time of year.

About half the money consists of so-called hill livestock compensatory allowances, which are headage payments of £44.50 a cow and either £6.25 or £4.25 a breeding ewe, and are intended to supplement farmers' incomes in areas of poor grazing. The rest consists mainly of capital grants.

Before Mr Jopling's announcement, the crisis was particularly acute in Scotland, where farm incomes fell last year by 30 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in England and Wales; where bank borrowings are higher than the national average; and which has suffered from some of the worst of the winter weather.

Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, who on Wednesday led a delegation to the ministry, yesterday welcomed Mr Jopling's decision. It would end a period of damaging uncertainty, he said.

VAT relief hint for charities

The Government is considering giving charities relief from value-added tax after a four-year campaign by charities for the concession.

After a meeting with Mr Barney Heyhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, a spokesman for the Charities VAT Reform Group said Mr Heyhoe had invited them to work with Treasury officials on establishing how much the move would cost.

"He indicated that if at all possible we would be given VAT relief in the Budget," a spokesman said. "We are very pleased. It is the first indication that the Treasury is prepared to work with us on this."

The group represents more than 300 charities who estimate that paying VAT costs them between £6m and £10m a year.

Britons lease tax haven

The 24 year lease on the 50-acre island of Jethou, three miles from Guernsey, has been bought by British residents who want to remain anonymous. It was once the home of Compton McKenzie and has been owned since 1971 by Sir Charles Hayward, who died last year. Jethou is a tax haven, whose tenant is not liable even to Guernsey income tax.

88 orders under contempt Act

Judges at the Central Criminal Court have made 88 orders banning contemporaneous press reports of proceedings since the Contempt of Court Act came into force, according to figures released yesterday.

They were supplied by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, in a letter to Mr John Morris Labour MP for Aberavon, and opposition spokesman on legal affairs, who wants an inquiry into the workings of the Act.

Surgeons cancel trip after threat

The Royal College of Surgeons has called off a visit to Egypt by some of its consultants after death threats to the team were received in two letters.

Seven consultants, some of their wives and two college administrators were to have left for Cairo the day before yesterday on a annual visit to invigilate university examinations in surgery and anaesthetics.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pts 150; Cyprus 650 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pts 170; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 100

Further safeguard for green belts

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Ministers yesterday introduced a new draft policy on green belts designed to make it harder for builders to build in unspoilted countryside. The new draft replaced one which met fierce Conservative criticism when it appeared last year.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, a parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, tried yesterday to minimize the differences between the two versions. "My view is that there is no question that conservationists have won or that the builders have won," he said.

s But the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which took its opposition to the first version to the 1983 Conservative party conference, claimed that the new document represented a victory. "The new villages will only be able to happen, if at all, within local authority structure plans," it said.

A new version of last year's draft circular about the supply of land for housing also appeared yesterday. Such circulars contain advice from the Government to local councils and show how ministers will treat appeals against refusals of planning permission by councils.

Opposition to last year's drafts was increased because they appeared just as a consortium of the country's largest building companies announced that it wanted to build a series of new villages in the home countries. "I think that many people felt that the timing caused a lot of disquiet," Mr Macfarland said.

The new drafts give builders less change of developing land outside the areas allocated on the strategic plans of local councils. They concentrate more on the need to find building land in inner cities. Mr MacFarlane said they were meant to provide a balance between development and conservation.

● The House Builders Federation said in a statement that it was gratifying to see that while properly emphasizing the importance of the green belt the Secretary of State "clearly stated the need to reconcile it with the necessity to allow for future new housing and developing requirements (Our Property Correspondent writes).

Behind that brief comment lies a belief that the circular had not changed anything, but was a clearer exposition of the Government policy on the Green Belt than the previous circular.

Jenkin's U-turn, p14

Government policy on new villages near London

Last year	Now
"In some areas it may exceptionally prove the best solution to plan for new settlements."	"Any specific propsals of this kind by private developers must be subject to normal planning procedures.

Source: Draft circulars on housing land.

Shawcross dispute at Observer

The editor of *The Observer* has become embroiled in an increasingly acrimonious dispute with Lord Shawcross, the former Attorney-General and one of the newspaper's directors, over coverage of the Mark Thatcher affair.

The Observer carried a lengthy investigative article last Sunday about the business dealings of the Prime Minister's son which so angered Lord Shawcross that he wrote letters to his fellow directors, and sent a copy to Downing Street, complaining of "mud-raking", innuendo and smear journalism.

Mr Donald Trelford, editor of *The Observer*, is understood to have been furious at what he saw as an attempt to put political pressure on him. All he would say yesterday was: "Anyone who is attacked by both Lord Shawcross and Paul Johnson in the same week must be getting something right."

But the dispute grew yesterday after Lord Shawcross, who is 82 and a supporter of the Social Democratic Party, wrote a long letter to Mr Alan Rusbridger, who broke the story in *The Guardian* diary earlier this week. The letter was sharply critical of Mr Trelford's editorship and explained in further detail Lord Shawcross's complaints.

Shergar clue

Police in the Irish Republic say they believe that the stolen Derby winner Shergar is buried in Ballinamore, co Leitrim, where Mr Don Tidey was freed last December.

Sale room

Good silver selling well over the estimates

By Huon Mallalieu

A sale of good quality silver at Sotheby's yesterday made £220,935 with just over 10 per cent bought in and many lots being bid well over estimate. This was reassuring because all too often in the past prices for fine antique works of art seem to have been dictated by the crude criteria of the market in precious metals.

On this occasion the auctioneers appeared to have been unduly cautious in their estimates. A pair of George II table candlesticks by Paul de Lamerie, one of the two most sought after British makers, dated 1748, went to the London dealer Levene at £30,800 (estimate £12,000 to £15,000).

The estimate was doubtless based on the price of £6,500 made by a set of four very similar candlesticks at Christie's in 1965, but last December a pair of comparable, if altered, sticks, sold for $88,000 at Sotheby's in New York.

Another lot that doubled its estimate was an oval George II soup tureen and cover by Georege Wickes of London, 1741, which went to Garrard at £18,150 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000).

A private bidder paid £8,250 for a matching set of 12 silver dinner plates made in the 1730s and the 1760s (estimate £4,000 to £6,000).

Island mail tests the pilots

From Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent
Port Stanley

The Royal Air Force has to do some fancy low-level flying in difficult conditions these days to deliver the mail to Captain Marius Coulson, Lord High Everything in the Falkland Islands dependency of South Georgia.

Apart from being a captain in the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and officer commanding the small Army garrison in South Georgia, Captain Coulson is also the resident civil official, magistrate, postmaster, special constable, assistant Queen's harbourmaster and deputy collector of customs.

He is thus the very embodiment of civil and military authority in the island. These high offices were conferred on him in December as he and a detachment from his battalion were setting out for a four-month garrison duty in South Georgia, which was occupied by the Argentines for 22 days during the conflict in 1982.

His assumption of the roles was designed formally to reestablish a civil administration in the island which had been under military control since its recapture from the Argentines in April, 1982.

The delivery of mail to Captain Coulson and his men is part of a 1,600-mile round trip to South Georgia that an RAF Hercules transport aircraft makes about twice a month from the Falkland Islands.




Captain Coulson: South Georgia's Lord High Everything.

It is part of a process of policing the British territories in the South Atlantic, because, apart from delivering the mail, the Hercules also checks various places in case there have been unauthorized landings such as occurred before the conflict with Argentina.

There is no airfield in South Georgia so the mail has to be dropped by parachute in the sea as close inshore as possible, at Gritvyken.

That calls for highly skilled flying. Ideally, the Hercules should approach at 250 ft above sea level and drop the parachutes at a speed of 125 mph. If the speed is much greater the parachute is liable to be torn to shreds; if it is much lower the aircraft is in danger of stalling.

The flying is greatly complicated by the fact that Gritvyken is hemmed in by rising ground, with a 7,000 ft peak only about seven miles ahead as the aircraft makes its approach.

The approach starts with a dummy run to access the strength of the air currents from the mountains and the turbulence they produce. On a recent trip the Hercules lurched so violently that the pilot, Sqadron Leader Ron Wright, aged 47, could not make the parachute drop possible close inshore.

Instead he had to radio for the men below to take their boats further out where the air was less turbulent, and there the drop was accomplished.

Although the weather around Gritvyken was clear and bright, despite the turbulence, as Squadron Leader Wright flew north-west along the coast to reconnoitre Stromness Bay, Prince Olav Harbour, and Bird Island, the black mountains and the grey and white of the glaciers and snowfields were very quickly lost in great swirls of cloud and that phase of the flight had to be abandoned.

Squadron Leader Wright thought that beyond Gritvyken conditions made any approach close to land impossible, while at Gritvyken itself during the parachute drop they had been merely "very, very difficult".

Universities forced to treat A level grades as criteria for places

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The shortage of university places caused by the 1981 cuts in spending on the universities is forcing academic selectors to put undue emphasis on A level grades which were not intended for choosing students for college.

In the annual report of the Universities Central Council on Adminstrations (UCCA), Dr Harry Kay, vice-chancellor of Exeter University and the council's chairman, says "fine shades of difference between grades" now have to carry more significance than was intended because selectors are forced to discriminate between well qualified applicants.

The number of applications and acceptances for last autumn presents "an unusual and unhappy picture" and reflects the July 1981 cuts in government spending on the universities, Dr Kay says.

Only 69,631 home candidates were accepted, 3,000 (4.1 per cent) fewer than the previous year and almost 5,000 below the figure in 1981, when the cuts were made.

Applications, however, have risen, from 149,330 in 1981 to 157,015 in 1983, with the biggest increase in the number of women applying.

The Association of University Teachers said the figures meant Britain's best young brains were facing their biggest crisis in 25 years.

"It is a deplorable situation and, long term, economically disastrous for the country", says Mr John Akker, the association's general secretary, said.

"The Government is pursuing an elitist policy that is forcing the universities unwillingly to slam the door in the face of many able and qualified youngsters because they cannot afford to provide places."

Last year women made up 42.3 per cent of home candidates and 42 per cent of all successful candidates, representing a small increase in both instances. The number of overseas applicants increased slightly and 100 more were accepted than in 1982.

More students last year withdrew UCCA applications after accepting offer and achieving the required grades; almost 7,700 compared with 5,600 the previous year.

UCCA Twenty-first Report 1982-83 (Universities Central Council on Admissions, PO Box 28, Cheltenham, Gloucesteshire GL50 1HY £1.50).

Home reading plea

Few primary school pupils are allowed to take their reading books home with them even though teachers know how important it is to involve parents in children's reading.

This conclusion, reached after a study of infants' and first schools, in which head teachers, the teachers of seven-year-olds and some of their pupils were interviewed, is published in the current issue of *Educational Research*. The survey also found few schools prepared to give guidance to parents on hearing their children read.

Three of the head teachers refused to permit their teachers to send books home. Five class teachers decided not to allow it.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother speaking yesterday to Hannah Norris and Damien Smith, both aged four, at the opening of the Swiss Cottage Community Centre in Camden, north London (Photograph John Manning).

News of the World must pay libelled policemen £253,000

Ten police officers were each awarded £25,300 libel damages in the High Court yesterday for allegations in the *News of the World* that they had been involved in rape and blackmail.

At the end of a four-day hearing the jury, after being out for more than three hours, unanimously awarded each man £300 for the libel and a further £25,000 in exemplary damages.

That, according to counsel for the policemen, Mr David Eady, QC, was to make and example of the newspaper – which published the "exclusive" allegations in July, 1978 – for its "callous opportunism".

In his summing-up to the jury, Mr Justice Comyn told them that the newspaper knew the allegations were untrue, but thought that it would get more out of publishing them than it would have to pay in damages.

He ordered the newspaper's publishers, News Group Newspapers, to pay the damages and an estimated £50,000 costs, but he put a stay on payment of the £25,000 exemplary damages to each man for 28 days, pending a possible appeal.

The allegations appeared in a letter sent to the *News of the World* in June, 1978, by David Brain, a gunman involved in a siege, in which he claimed that his wife had been raped and beaten by CID officers and had been blackmailed to accuse him of the offences they had committed against her.

Brain, who was besieged by police in a cottage, had two hostages, one of them his son, aged five. At his trial in June, 1979, he was convicted on several charges and sent to Broadmoor under the Mental Health Act.

Mr Eady said that in publishing the letter the newspaper saw the opportunity for an "exclusive" story with the ingredients of rape and blackmail.

News Group Newspapers denied libel. The company denied that the letter referred to the 10 officers, or that it was defamatory

Age of great exhibitions not over, RA says

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Academy has rejected a forecast by Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, that the age of the great exhibition is dead.

Sir Roy said that the Rococo exhibition which opens at the museum in May displaying arts treasures worth more than £15m will be the last show the V and A can afford to mount on such a lavish scale.

He cited the example of the Royal Academy's exhibition, The Genius of Venice, as an indication of the difficulties facing the promoters of large expensive shows.

But his remarks have displeased the academy, which says that it expects to break even, or possibly make a small profit, from the 300,000 predicted visitors to the Venice exhibition, and has long-term plans to continue large-scale shows.

Mr Norman Rosenthal, the academy's exhibitions secretary, said yesterday: "I do not agree with Sir Roy's remarks. The age of the great exhibition is not over. It is quite easy to say these things but each event is a situation on its own. Exhibitions, like politics, are the art of the possible."

Unlike the V and A, the academy does not receive public funds. Its only public support for its exhibitions is a government indemnity which covers most of the insurance costs of works of art on show

Payment for armour is held up

By Bryan Appleyard

Nine months after he sold a suit of armour for £330,000 at Sotheby's, Lord Astor has still not received a penny of the proceeds.

The seventeenth century suit of Flemish armour made for Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, was sold last May to Mr Howard Ricketts, the London agent for Mr Ronald Lauder son of the founder of the cosmetics business, Estée Lauder.

The suit was sold as part of a £4m collection of arms from the Astor family's Hever Castle collection. That included a suit made in Milan for Henry II of France which fetched £1.9m.

Both suits were subject to export bans but the Milan suit left the country after it became clear that no attempts were being made to raise money to save it.

The Southapton suit, however, has been the subject of an appeal by the Armouries of the Tower of London launched last October.

The ban on an export licence expires on February 18 but it now looks certain that the appeal has been a success. A total of £372,950 needed to be raised to cover the purchase price plus buyer's premium, value-added tax and £5,000 for the agent's fee to Mr Ricketts.

"We are quietly confident," Mr Ian Eaves, Keeper of Armour at the Tower of London, said.

The armour suit sold for £330,000.

Lord Astor believes that the entire procedure has taken too long and that British institutions should not be allowed to raise money in that way without bidding fairly at auction.

"It is an unsatisfactory system and a bad principle, whereby the private vendor of a so-called national treasure is statutorily penalized in this way with no balancing compensation", he said.

His complaint touches on a vague and little known area of auction practice. In cases where an export licence is in doubt Sotheby's says that the question of whether cash changes hands is left to the buyer and seller but it could not comment on specific cases.

Satellite TV costs disputed

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A claim by Sir Clive Sinclair that he can produce the necessary electronics and aerial to receive direct broadcasts by satellite (DBS) for about a quarter of the price which had been believed possible was disputed yesterday by two of Britain's main electronics manufacturers.

Sir Clive, who has been having discussions with the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the electronics required in the home for receiving satellite television, has just completed a feasibility study which concludes that the reception equipment can be made for about £100.

Thorn-EMI and GEC-McMichael, which will sell their systems between £400 and £500, question the Sinclair figures. Mr David Wright, managing director of GEC-McMichael, said: "We would be very surprised if at the launching of a satellite a complete system for reception in the home was available for £100."

The GEC figures are based on initial sales of 100,000 its confidence is based on the cost of the components in the receiving equipment. The antenna is metal and plastic and it is principally the electronic "black box" at the back of the television which might be reduced in price through miniaturization and mass production.

The feasibility study was requested by the BBC but at Sir Clive's initiative. A Sinclair executive said: "We will undertake no major investment until there is a firm commitment to go ahead."

The BBC, which is still discussing a proposed DBS partnership with the IBA, issued a statement implying that Sinclair was planning to manufacture unconditionally.

House with added horse

By Our Property Correspondent

A Mayfair property dealer will give a two-year-old colt, valued at more than £5,000 to anyone who buys his £102,500 two-bedroom mews cottage in St John's Wood, north London, by March 22.

The man, who owns several racehorses, has paid the colt's training fees and expenses until the end of the flat season. The Victorian cottage is being sold by estate agents Benham and Reeves, who have offered to accept a share of any prize money in lieu of commission.

Computers to speed house sales

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A computerized conveyancing system to speed buying and selling of houses is to be developed by the National Law Library and the Solicitors Law Stationery Society.

The system will take into account latest communications technology after the launch of British Telecom's teletex service. Solicitors will be able to link their offices and pass information to each other and communicate with other relevant bodies.

Rapid communications with banks, the land registry, estate *agents, building societies and* others are possible, the library and society say, and are intended to be integrated into the new system.

Mr Christopher Hewetson, president of the Law Society, has welcomed the idea. The library undertakes technological development for the legal professions. The Stationery Society supplies computers and other specialized services to them.

The Law Society's *Gazette* has an article this week saying that solicitors should set up their own building society to meet competition from those who want to take over the legal side of house buying and selling. The idea comes from Mr William Heath, a member of the society's council, and Mr Edwin Lee, partner in a London firm of solicitors.

The House Buyers Bill, if it becomes law, will allow licensed conveyancers, banks and building societies to take over the traditional work of solicitors.

The two solicitors say the building society would have a big computer with terminals and printers in each solicitor's office. They say they are investigating the idea and hope the society will be incorporated by the end of the year.

Campaign urges plain English on medicine labels

By Robin Young

The Plain English Campaign will shortly be publishing a report which is highly critical of doctors and drug companies for using unintelligible language on the labels of medicines and baby foods.

Miss Chrissie Maher of the campaign first drew attention to the subject three years ago, after a Derbyshire baby starved to death because its mother misunderstood the dilution instructions on tins of powdered milk. Several more instances of death resulting from misunderstandings of dosage instructions have come to light since.

Miss Maher said an instruction that medicine be taken "three times a day" could be understood to mean either four-hour or eight-hour intervals.

The campaign, whose offices are at 131 College Road, Manchester, M16 0AA, is appealing for information about cases in which people have misunderstood labels, and has aready received more than 100.

Bogus doctor remanded for sentence

A man said to have a "deep-rooted obsession" to pose as a doctor refused to appear in dock to be sentence a the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Dominic Simon had been sent by Bow Street magistrates who found him guilty on Wednesday of obtaining property by deception at a London nightclub.

The Court heard that, posing as Lord Forte's grandson, Simon ordered four bottles of champagne worth £220 for which he could not pay. He sent one bottle to the table of Miss Koo Stark.

Simon finally made a brief appearance at the request of Judge Nina Lowry so she could consider bail. However, he made no application and was remanded in custody to be sentenced later.

Last November Judge Lowry ordered Simon, aged 20, of Digby Crescent, Finsbury Park, north London, to have hospital treatment after he had posed as a doctor at ten London hospitals.

Muggers who menace mother hunted



The police are confident of finding a gang of muggers who have attacked a mother and her children twice.

Mrs Sally Menyhart, aged 25, and her 21-month-old daughter Nicola were stopped near their home in Conyers Road, Streatham, south London, on Wednesday morning and cut, respectively, with a razor blade and a knife. Nicola was treated for superficial facial cuts and her mother for a four-inch stab wound in the thigh.

The police believe the assailant was one of two men who attacked Mrs Menyhart, Nicola, and her other daughter, Natalie, aged three, on October 26, threatening reprisals if the police were told.

Since the first attack she and her husband John have received harrassing telephone calls and a dead bird was nailed to their door.

Wednesday's attacker was black, tall, with very bad acne.

PARLIAMENT February 9 1984

All bids for yard will be considered

SCOTT LITHGOW

It was open to companies other than Trafalgar House to make offers to British Shipbuilders for Scott Lithgow, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said in the Commons during question time, but she added that time was short.

Mrs Thatcher deplored the unions' apparent rejection of a chance to retain between the unions' 1,000 and 2,000 jobs on the Clyde and said that the hope for Scott Lithgow rested in getting the rig and possibly more of the yard into the private sector.

The questioning was opened by Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk, West, Lab) who asked the Prime Minister to explain why she seemed to favour the granting of contracts to firms like Trafalgar House, whether it was for the building of a university in Oman or asset-stripping Scott Lithgow and throwing nearly 3,000 workers out of a job.

Will she intervene now (he asked) to ensure the job prospects of Scottish workers, or is she only willing to intervene to help improve the job prospects of her own son? (Conservative protests).

Mrs Thatcher: The British taxpayer has paid £165m in respect of Scott Lithgow shipbuilding yard since nationalization. That is a large sum and meant last year a subsidy of £13,000 for every worker in the yard.

The future of the contract for the rig for Britoil is in question. There have been discussions about the whole of Scott Lithgow between British Shipbuilders and Trafalgar House. Discussions have made good progress.

A number of parties have expressed interest. Trafalgar House has pursued its interest and reached conditional agreement with British Shipbuilders.

Mr Barry Henderson (North-East Fife, C): Those in Scotland genuinely concerned about the possible social and economic consequences of Scott Lithgow deplore the politically-prejudiced remarks from Labour MPs now that the possibility of averting closure is emerging.

Will she ensure that every step is taken to carry through the hope which now exists for the future?

Mrs Thatcher: The hope of Scott Lithgow lies in getting that rig and possibly more of the yard into the private sector and having a new start under totally new management. It can get rid of the reputation of not fulfilling orders on time and within budget.

If it goes into the private sector and makes a good job of the rig, it may get other orders and the workforce have a very good future.

● All serious bids for the Scott Lithgow shipyard would be considered before a final deal was settled. Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, later assured the Commons when answering a private notice question on the conditional agreement reached between Trafalgar House, the shipping and property group, and BS.

Mr Lamont said that Trafalgar House was not being given favourable treatment; it was simply that they had made an offer way ahead of any other bidder and therefor their negotiations were well advanced. But all bids would receive equal consideration.

He could not understand the Opposition's objection to the negotiations when only a few days ago they had been calling for urgent action to secure the yard's future. Now that prospect was in view the Opposition complained things were going to fast.

He hoped that those workers at the yard who had walked out in protest when learning of the negotiations with Trafalgar House, would on reflection decide to return and so ensure that there remained offers to be discussed.

Mr Lamont in his main answer, said: Yesterday, the Government was informed that BS and Trafalgar House has reached a conditional agreement on the acquisition of Scott Lithgow. Negotiations are still underway. Final agreement would require Government approval; in the meantime other parties have expressed an interest.

The Government has been kept fully informed of the terms of conditional arrangements between BS and Trafalgar House and is currently examining these.

Mr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab): Can he give an absolute guarantee no private, cosy deal will be closed between these two parties and that serious bids from other interested parties will be carefully analysed before a deal is struck?

Will he give the House an assurance that is needed, he will use his statutory powers to obtain the best possible deal in terms of the interests of the management and the workforce of Scott Lithgow and hence the citizens of Greenock and Port Glasgow?

Mr Lamont: No private deal has been done and all serious bids will indeed be considered. Why agreement would require approval of the Government.

I would have hoped he might have welcomed the fact that there is a prospect of a future for Scott Lithgow; only a few weeks ago it appeared inconceivable. It appeared there was a situation of no hope – now there is some hope.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry: Would he confirm there is not only one interested party, Trafalgar House, but Bechtel and Howard Doris have also expressed serious interest in the prospect of taking over the Scott Lithgow yard?

How can he reconcile the statement that no deal has been done with Trafalgar House with the statement by Mr Graham Day that BS had a moral agreement with Trafalgar House but not yet a legal one? That is a most extraordinary attitude and it is one that does not sit easily on the impartial examination of the rival merits of Bechtel and Howard Doris prospects of taking over the yard.

The House ought to know what kind of terms are being offered by Trafalgar House and why is it that Trafalgar House is being given, as it were, so favourable a green light in its approach when it has given no guarantee to maintain even half the labour force in employment, no guarantee to continue to develop oil rigs in the Scott Lithgow yard and when there are large property interest connexions with Scott Lithgow outside its shipbuilding interests?

Mr Lamont: Other parties are interested. These do include Bechtel and I understand also Howard Doris telephoned BS yesterday expressing an interest. Obviously their interests will be examined. The deal does require the Government's approval and the Government will wish to examine this extremely carefully.

Trafalgar House were the first company to come forward very much before other companies and therefore they are a long way ahead simply because they made an offer and started negotiations quickly. Rightly, British Shipbuilders, in a situation where redundancies appeared to be imminent on a total scale in that yard, responded and opened negotiations with them.

He says they have given no commitment to maintain oil rig construction. He knows their interest is to continue to use this yard for the business of offshore construction and that Trafalgar House, through their subsidiary do have some interest in offshore industries and in constructing structures in the North Sea. They have experience.

The Government, British Shipbuilders and especially Britoil, will want to examine the technical competence and ability of companies to fulfil the contract.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C): The workforce at Scott Lithgow expressed at a meeting with me and Mr Albert McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan, C) that they would welcome any private sector coming in to retain the capability of the yard and in particular, the expertise of the yard. I would therefore expect that the workforce, in order to go along with that view, must be kept in the picture.


Shore: What terms are Trafalgar offering

Mr Lamont: I am encouraged to hear what he says. All who work at Scott Lithgow ought to be pleased that this prospect does exist.

I was concerned to hear that a large number of people did walk out, not wanting to work, this morning because they did not approve of this deal.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): The announcement by Trafalgar House and BS was deliberately timed to get in before others in this particular market, and without prior notification of the minister. This is intolerable where a deal involves large numbers of jobs and, directly or indirectly, Government money.

Some of us are sceptical about any long-term commitment by Trafalgar House to this particular yard.

Mr Lamont: His scepticism is not well-founded. BS were right to get on quickly with negotiations with Trafalgar House. We have been told time and again from the other side of the House that time is very short and we ought to get on now they are saying we are getting on too quickly.

Mr Michael Hirst (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, C): Before he gives approval of any deal will he ensure there is adequate management expertise to ensure that the rig at present in the yard is completed on time and that the commercial reputation of the yard is thereby enchanced?

Mr Lamont: In any deal it will be necessary to have the agreement of Britoil who are an interested party. They wish to have their rig and will wish to be satisfied as to the technical competence of anyone taking over the yard.

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab): Was the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr George Younger) informed, or his department informed, before this moral agreement took place?

Mr Lamont: We were all kept fully informed of the situation before the announcement was made. If the deal goes through, Trafalgar House would hope to employ 2,000 at first to be maintained if new work is found, otherwise it will be reduced to a nucleous of 1,250. That is a significant improvement on what might have happened.

Four votes keep out a Liberal amendment

TELECOM BILL

A Liberal proposal, which it was claimed would dilute a great deal of anxiety about the Telecommunication Bill to privatize British Telecom, was narroly rejected when the committee stage of the Bill began in the House of Lords.

An amendment by Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran to set up a telecommunication authority which would appoint the director general of telecommunications, instead of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry as the Bill proposed, was defeated by 116 votes to 112 – Government majority of 4.

Lord Lloyd said the authority, which would be chosen from experts in the industry and the trade unions, would also have the task of advising the director general. The Bill would have a profound effect on industry nationally and internationally. There was anxiety among the public and the industry about the way it was being treated by the Government.

Lord Taylor of Gryfe (SDP) said that consumers, manufacturers and trade unions felt there should be a body to whom they could make representations rather than feel that a remote civil servant and a minister were to be responsible for discharging the immense public duty which the Bill put on them.

There ought to be an authority that provided some degree of accountability or at least public awareness of what was going on. The new director general would be a remote figure to the six to eight million people who used the telephones.

Lord Ezra (L) said that what contemplated in the Bill was a unique transfer of a massive concentration of industrial and technological might from the public to the private sector. This new venture should be carried out with extreme caution.

It was highly desirable there should be a body of people skilled in the various aspects of this industry who could have a supervisory role over the operation.

The Countess Mar (Ind) said that hundreds of thousands of telephone subscribers would perhaps suffer under the Bill and they needed someone to whom they could turn.

Lord McIntosh of Haringey, for the Opposition, said the risk of having a political appointment was great. The Opposition wanted greater parliamentary control introduced.

Lady Macleod of Borve (C) agreed with the principle of the amendement. This job was much too big for one man, she added.

Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said he appreciated that the invention of the amendment was to facilitate the smooth and effective working of the Act, but he did not think it would have that effect.

It was not a proposal which would sit happily with the structure for the regulatory system included in the Bill.

The Bill made ample provision for the supervision of the exercise of the powers by Parliament and for people to challenge in the courts decisions made by the director general.

He could not advise the House to accept the proposal which would not be consistent with the general pattern of the Bill and would not add any protection which did not exist at present.

Prior tells why he did not resign

MAZE ESCAPE

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, explained to the Commons why he did feel it was necessary for him to resign following the break-out at the Maze prison.

Opening a debate on the report by Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, on security arrangements at the Maze, Mr Prior recalled that there were people who suggested the circumstances of the escape demanded ministerial resignation.

I took that view seriously and have given it the most careful consideration (he said). I share MPs' concern about the honour of public life and the maintenance of the highest standard. If there were any evidence in the Hennessy report that ministers were to blame for the escape, I would not hesitate to accept that blame and act accordingly.

I do not accept, and I do not think it right for the House to accept, that there is any constitutional or other principle that requires ministerial resignations in the event of a failure either by others to carry out orders and procedures or by supervisors to ensure that staff carry out those orders.


Prior: No blame on ministers

The question I have asked myself is whether on the Sunday afternoon of September 25 I was to blame for those prisoners escaping, he said.

The report is quite explicit in its conclusion that although there may have been weaknesses in the physical security of the prison and in the prisons department, the escape could not have taken place if the procedures laid down for the running of the prison had been followed.

Undoubtedly some prison officers were disaffected but the vast majority were doing a dedicated job as was brought out in the report.

He did not believe, if morale has been as low as some people since have been trying to make out, that the courage shown by the prison officers during the escape, particularly at the gate when one gave his life and five were badly injured, could possibly have been shown.

He readily accepted the report's 73 recommendations. He wished to act quickly to rectify any security deficiencies in the Maze. He acknowledged that there had been shortcomings, deficiencies and operational mistakes.

There were three main aspects to the report's criticism of the Maze – physical weaknesses including the main gate; procedural weaknesses including search arrangements; deficiencies in management. We have (he said) taken action in all these areas.

Since the report had been published, action to implement the recommendations had continued and that work was being supervised by a special team dedicated solely to the urgent implementation of the recommendations. The team would report regularly to him on progress.

The Prisons Department in Northern Ireland had been strengthened and a review of management structure in the department had been carried out. In addition, a number of reviews recommended by Hennessy had started or would start shortly.

He was well aware of the acute difficulties under which those in immediate command of the prison operated. He repeated his tribute to the dedication with which the then Governor had carried out his 34 years' service, but given the extent and nature of the security deficiencies which the report had highlighted, and considering the Hennessy conclusion that the Governor must carry ultimate responsibility for the state of the prison, he believed it had been right to accept his resignation.

He had been close to retirement and he (Mr Prior) had made arrangements whereby he would not suffer in respect of his retirement as a result of resignation. That would be a proper recognition of one who had, in many ways, been holding the poison chalice in that job at the time of the escape.

I am determined that the shortcomings will be rectified and the present governor assures me that action has already been taken and will be taken to that end.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said minister should be judged with sympathy for the difficulty of a thankless task. Their decisions were not to be condemned simply because they were wrong. But they must be judged by the standard of involvement which took account of the minefield in which their staff were working.

He said that minutes of the Labour Allocation Board, which allocated work to the prisoners, wont to the Northern Ireland Offie. On them was the name of Brendan MacFarlane. It was a name that would leap out to anyone who read those minutes. But did anyone in the Security and Operations Division read them? And if they were too overworked to read them, did Ministers know this?

Representatives of the prison officers had met the Governor on Novembir 24th 1982 and expressed concern about security in H Block. Minutes of those meetings were sent to the Northern Ireland Office and it was clear that staff were very concerned with security in H Block, particularly H-7. Did anyone read them and if they did, how could they have been unaware of the anxieties of these staff?

He did not think it was right to call for the resignation of the Secretary of State because he could not reasonably have been expected to read those minutes personally. He was badly served. Nor could he see Mr Prior being replaced within the present administration by anybody more compassionate and politically sensitive.

But the Earl of Gowrie former Minister of State for Northern Ireland was in a different position and it was difficult to see how he could justify remaining a member of Government.

Sir Humphrey Atkins (Spelthorne, C) for Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said that of the 2,500 prisoners in Northern Ireland, 1,900 were there for offences committed in the course of terrorist activity. The majority of these regarded themselves as prisoners of war and as such regarded it as their duty to try to escape.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

By the end of the year we may be looking back on the withdrawal from Lebanon as the event that sealed President Reagan's reelection.

That may seem a cynical comment in the light of the catastrophe there. But it is a reminder that international crises often have a strong domestic political content. In this instance it is particularly strong for the United States, though it is important for Britain as well.

It will be remarkable, though, if a domestic political success is derived from an international failure. If that occurs it will be partly because the success will be only relative and partly because of the short time scale by which political developments are judged.

In the long run, what has happened in Lebanon could have damaging consequences that would affect us all. But in the short run it has removed an embarrassment for the British Government and a potentially decisive factor in the American presidential election.

For some months it has seemed that the greatest threat to Mr Reagan's chances of reelection has lain in an international disaster for the United States, and that the greatest danger of one was in Lebanon. The President is immensely popular personally; the economy is recovering well; inflation is down; but Lebanon presented a double anxiety.

The American forces in Beirut were a hostage to the enemies of the United States – and the word hostage has bitten deeply into American political consciousness.

Mr Reagan is known to believe that the humiliation in Tehran ensured Mr Jimmy Carter's defeat in the 1980 election. It represented for the American people a sense of national futility. It was seen as the penalty for weak leadership, and President Reagan has always been determined that nothing of the sort should happen to him.

Action by Britain alone ruled out

The Beruit massacre in October was a warning of how easily it could. Not even Mr Reagan's charm or all his oratorial skill could have muffled the anguish of Americans during the coming months of they had been watching on their television screen night after night the coffins of their boys slaughtered in Lebanon.

If the President had allowed that to happen he would have been transformed into an aging actor trying ineffectually to play the role of a strong man. If, however, he had responded by extending the military embroilment of American troops he would have run into another political danger. He would have intensified the anxieties of those voters who already regard him as trigger-happy and would have further jeopardized his support among women voters.

For the British Government the political danger has been less, but real enough. British ministers have been worried for some time about the vulnerability of British troops in Lebanon. Even though there were fewer of them than Americans there, the political consequences of their slaughter would have been horrific.

But for Britain to have removed its troops while United States forces remained would have been damaging to Anglo-American relations. Especially after Grenada, it would have been said across the United States that you could no longer trust the British when the going got rough. For such a belief to become part of American political folklore would have been grave indeed.

That just about ruled out a unilateral British withdrawal. Yet the political hazards in staying there indefinately would have been considerable even if there had been no massacre of British troops. The pressure to get them out as quickly as possible seemed to have subsided on the Conservative backbenches after the burst of protest in December.

But the unease was there and might well have broken out again with redoubled force. Already it was evident in the House of Commons that the Lebanon dilemma was fuelling anti-American sentiment. It would have continued to do so in all parties as more and more members concluded that Britain was simply being dragged along in the American slipstream against its own interests.

There is certainly anxiety now on all sides of the Commons about the future of Lebanon. But that does not put the same political pressure on the British Government because nobody believes that it has the principal responsibility. So, while the withdrawal was precipitated by an extremely damaging turn of events, ministers have a justifiable sense of relief.

Why British troops had to be moved

LEBANON

British troops would have been unable to help evacuate British nationals from Beirut because of the position of their headquarters, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister.

Mr Vivian Bendall (Ilford North, C) asked: Does she think it is right that the British task force is being pulled out of Beirut prior to British nationals being withdrawn? Will she comment on the fact that British nationals are being asked to sign pieces of paper for their fares?

Mrs Thatcher: The British forces in the Lebanon had their headquaters at Hadeth. From that postiion they would have been totally unable to help British nationals who were in West Beirut. They are better able to help from the RFA Reliant that they would have been from their previous position.

We had to consider their safety in that previous position and their inablility to carry our the task which had been allocated to them which was to safeguard the bank where the ceasefire talks were taking place, but there had been none since January 16, and to patrol in West Beirut, which had become impossible.

It was right to withdraw them under those circumstances rather then to leave them in a very dangerous and exposed position. Our ambassador there is making arrangements for their evacuation. With regard to the paper thay are being asked to sign to say they will pay £30, that is in accordance with standard practice for all evacuations

When the Labour government evacuated people from Tehran the price charge then was £68. (Laughter)

Green paper on public spending

ECONOMY

The Government would be publishing in a Green Apper on longer term public expenditure and taxation prospects, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, indicated during Commons questions.

Dr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell South, Lab) had said that manufacturing output was still 13 per cent below 1979. He asked if Mr Lawson had examined the prospects for falling North Sea oil production and considered what impact this would have on the balance of payments and on competitiveness and exchange rates.

Mr Lawson replied that the Government considered seriously the long-term prospects. This was one reason for the Green Paper.

Earlier, Mr Lawson said that the Government's policies had reduced inflation and so provided a sound basis for the growth in output now under way.

Manufacturing had shared in this revovery and the January survey by the CBI pointed to a 7 per cent increase in manufacturing investment this year.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab): That answer is irrelevant to the real issues. The manufacturing base in the North West has been destroyed by the Government. Given that the Government is frittering away the benefits of North Sea oil, what hope can he give to an area like Manchester, the North West or whole regions of the country when the oil revenues start to disappear?

Mr Lawson: The growth of the economy of 3 per cent over the past year was the highest in the EEC. The prospect is of a further increase of 3 per cent during the current year. I am sure the North West will share fully in that recovery.

Mr John Farr (Harborough, C) said he welcomed the encouraging words on the growth in exports and that Britain would succeed in an exporting war next year. But manufactured imports exceeded manufactured exports last year for the first time in Britain's history. How would Mr Lawson correct the balance?

Mr Lawson: I am not clear why he wants the balance corrected. (Interruptions.) We are exporting oil on a substantial scale and there is bound to be a counterpart on the import side to that.

The counterpart we are seeing is manufactured goods, many of which are important and helpful to British industry in equipping for the future.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C): Manufacturing industry is at long last starting to expand, and one reason is that the banks have been willing to lend way above normal banking prudence.

If that is to continue, and there is a need for it, another windfall tax on banks would discourage that needed growth in manufacturing industry.

Mr Lawson: The extent to which banks lend is a matter for them. The Government has helped small businesses particularly with the loan guarantee scheme. But the lessons of history and the current position on the international debt problem makes one hesitate to wax too enthusiastic about banks lending above the limits of banking prudence.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): Manufacturing industry urgently needs most to be allowed to become competitive with industries overseas. Will he abolish the tax on jobs and help interest rates and the effective exchange rate to come down?

Mr Lawson said he would be happy to abolish various taxes when Mr Wainwright and his party told him where to make public spending savings to do so.

Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that even on the Government's figures manufacturing investment was 37 per cent below the level of 1979 and manufacturing output was well down.

Manufacturers in Britain (she said) will be deeply shocked by Mr Lawson's apparent disregard of their contribution to the economy. He would have done better to increase public investment so that investment and output in manufacturing industry can expand.

Mr Lawson: I cannot understand the selective importance she, many Labour MPs and some Tory MPs attach to the manufacturing sector. About a quarter of all jobs are in manufacturing. All sectors of the economy are important and it is foolish to make distinctions between them.

Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during other exchanges that the White Paper on public expenditure would be published in a few days' time.

Welsh rates support grant approved

The Welsh rate support grant for 1984-85 was approved in the Commons on Wednesday night by 275 votes to 170 – Government majority, 105.

Sir Anthony Meyer (Clwyd North West, C) said during the debate that the system of local government finance was too complicated for any backbencher to understand. It had a built-in incentive to irresponsibility.

Mr Ioan Evans, an Opposition spokesman for Wales, said Government expenditure had increased by 130 per cent in the past five years while local government expenditure had gone up by 77 per cent. Local authorities were being punished for the failures of central government.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, replying, said all of the Welsh councils were in the top 11 of the shire counties in England and Wales in terms of target per head and Powys and Gwynedd were first and third.

Black economy not all bad

It was false to assume that the black economy was all bad, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, stated during Commons question time. It certainly contributed to growth within society.

Mr Hayhoe said the nature of the black economy in the United Kingdom as elsewhere was suh that it was not possible to make any firm estimate of the overall amount of tax lost.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs: Is he actually saying that he does not agree with the estimate given to a select committee of between £4,000m and £6,000m?

Given that the back economy will grow as we are in depression, is the Government going to take action to increase the powers of the Inland Revenue as recommended by the Keith Committee?

Mr Hayhoe: It is impossible to give firm estimate. I realise the Inland Revenue did make a broad estimate and it is closer to describe it as guesstimate. It indicated an income tax loss of £4,000m and a customs loss of between £250m and £500m.

The Government has entered a period of consultations on the Keith recommendations and comments are now coming in.

Sir Paul Bryan (Boothferry, C): The Government can take some comfort from the fact that the so-called black economy is to a certain extent manned by the so-called unemployed.

Mr Hayhoe: I think it is falacious to assume that the black economy is all bad.

Mr John Maxton (Glasgow, Cathcart, Lab): In view of the amount of taxation that is lost through the black economy, why does not the Government consider transferring some of the snoopers from the Department of Health and Social Security to the Inland Revenue to ensure that proper taxes are paid?

Mr Hayhoe: There are some aspects of the black economy which are not bad. Of course fraud is fraud wherever it occurs

A significant increase has taken place in the manpower deployed both by the Inland Revenue and by Customs and Excise.

Hill farmers to receive cheques this week

AGRICULTURE

Cheques for farmers would be in the post tomorrow (Friday) for this year's hill livestock compensatory allowances, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told the Commons.

Reporting on a meeting of the EEC Agriculture Ministers, he added that he would start approvals of applications under the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Scheme, the Farm and Horticulture Cooperation Scheme (for forage groups) and the Farm Structure (payment to outgoers) Scheme.

We reached agreement (he said) on an import quota for 1984 of 50,000 tonnes of beef and veal for the processing industry. Because of the continued opposition of some member states, there was no progress on new long-term arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter.

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, called for a reform of he CAP to transfer the burden from the hard-pressed consumers to the taxpayers in general.

Did he discuss with the French Minister the illegal delays of British meat exports to France and make clear that this intolerable situation must be ended for good?

Mr Jopling: I had discussions with the French Minister. It seems the demonstrations appear now to be over and there have been no confirmed reports of any significant delays to British meat.

We are working for a fundamental reform of the CAP on the basis of the post-Stuttgart discussions.

Next week's business

The main business of the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Private member's motion on provision of organs for transplants. Nottinghamshire County Council Bill, report.

Tuedsay: Motion on the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements) Amendment Regulations and on motions relating to housing benefits.

Wednesday: Debate on an Opposition motion on the problems of low pay.

Thursday: Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private Member's motion, on new technology.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Committee stage of Telecommunications Bill.

Tuesday: Committee stage of the Education (Grants and Awards) Bill and second reading of Straw and Stubble Burning Prohibition Bill.

Wednesday: Debates on the Law of the Sea Treaty and on metropolitan areas.

Thursday: Committee stage of Telecommunications Bill.

Parliament today

House of Commons (9.30): Private Member's motion on future provision of welfare services and benefits.

House of Lords (11): Motion on report by chairman of Advisory Council for Applied Research and Advisory Board for Research Councils.

Ministers smile on Tyneside's Metro

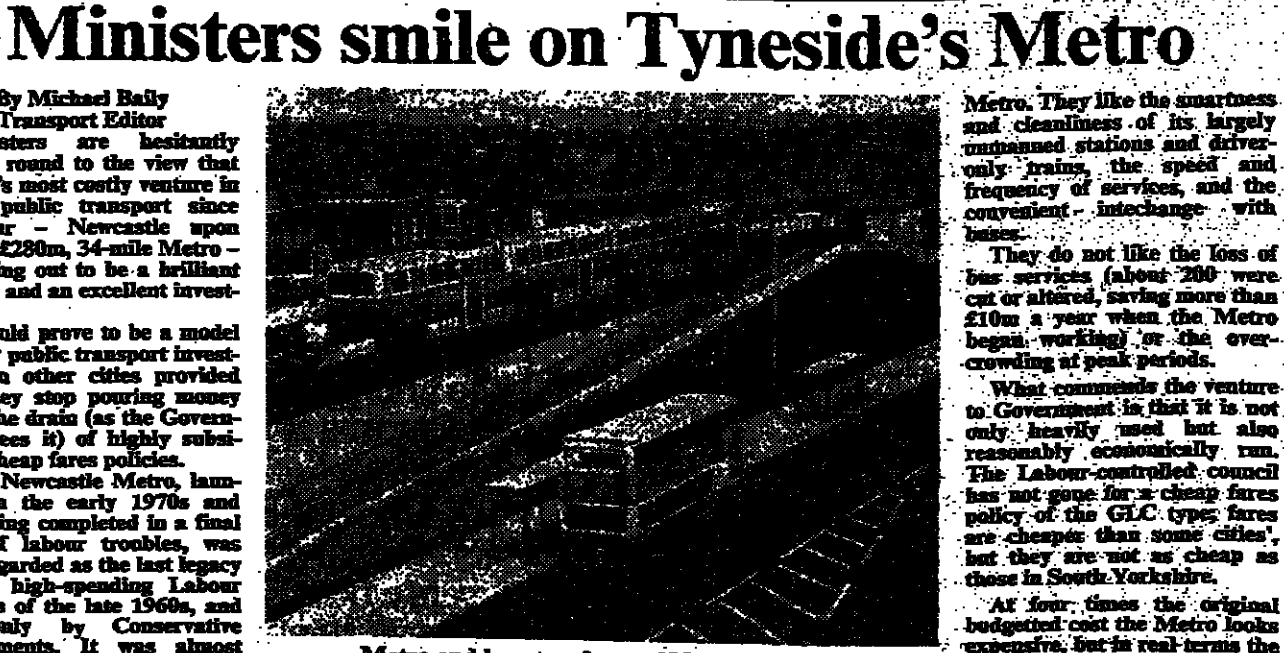
By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

Ministers are hesitantly coming round to the view that Britain's most costly venture in urban public transport since the war – Newcastle upon Tyne's £280m, 34-mile Metro – is turning out to be a brilliant success and an excellent investment.

It could prove to be a model for new public transport investment in other cities provided that they stop pouring money down the drain (as the Government sees it) of highly subsidized cheap fares policies.

The Newcastle Metro, launched in the early 1970s and now being completed in a final rush of labour troubles, was long regarded as the last legacy of the high-spending Labour regimes of the late 1960s, and not only by Conservative governments. It was almost halted with £100m spent, by Labour's Secretary of State for Transport, Mr William Rodgers, during the IMF monetary crisis in 1976.

But its cheerful little yellow trains, or trams as they are more often called, whizzing through Tyneside, are already, three years after the first section opened, much appreciated by not only the local population but also by the business community which has to pay heavily for them through the rates.


Metro and bus, two faces of Newcastle travel

"Newcastle is the highest rated city in the United Kingdom and, although we complain bitterly about that, we don't complain about the burden of the Metro", Mr James Cram, northern director of the CBI, says.

"It has enormous psychological significance. The industrial community regard it as a sign that the North-east isn't down and out, and are pressing for extensions to Sunderland and Newcastle airport."

As for the Metro's value nationally, Mr Cram added, "if it helps us to sell this area as go-ahead, attract new firms, and become more self-reliant, that helps 'UK Limited'".

Nearly every traveller I spoke to during a day in the city was pleased with the Metro. They like the smartness and cleanliness of its largely unmanned stations and driver-only trains, the speed and frequency of services, and the convenient intechange with buses.

They do not like the loss of bus services (about 200 were cut or altered, saving more than £10m a year when the Metro began working) or the overcrowding at peak periods.

What commends the venture to Government is that it is not only heavily used but also reasonably economically run. The Labour-controlled council has not gone for a cheap fares policy of the GLC type; fares are cheaper than some cities', but they are not as cheap as those in South Yorkshire.

At four times the original budgetted cost the Metro looks expensive, but in real terms the final cost was only 5 per cent up on budget: a commendable performance.

On many key indicators, the Metro does well in international terms. Compared with Cologne for example, which has a similar population, 1.2 million, Newcastle acheives 994 public transport miles a head of population a year against 500; and 159 miles per each member of staff, against 162.

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Inspectorate to streamline personal social services

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Details of the a new social services inspectorate to check the work of local authority social services departments are to be announced shortl.y by Mr Norman Fowler. Secretary of State for Social Services.

The inspectorate will be based on the Department of Health and Social Security's social work service division. It will bring in experts in management and financial control to work with profesional social workers to ensure that local social services departments operate efficiently and provide value for money.

About £2,500m a year is spent on personal social services and local authority authorities employ about 200,000 people in providing them.

The aim would be to offer independent assessments of how well local authority social service departments are performing compared with others, to provide models of good practice and cost indicators for supplying the services.

There has been ministerial concern over the efficiency of local authorities in delivering the services, instanced by an inspection that had been carried out, at the request of Tower Hamlets in east London and its social services department, of services there.

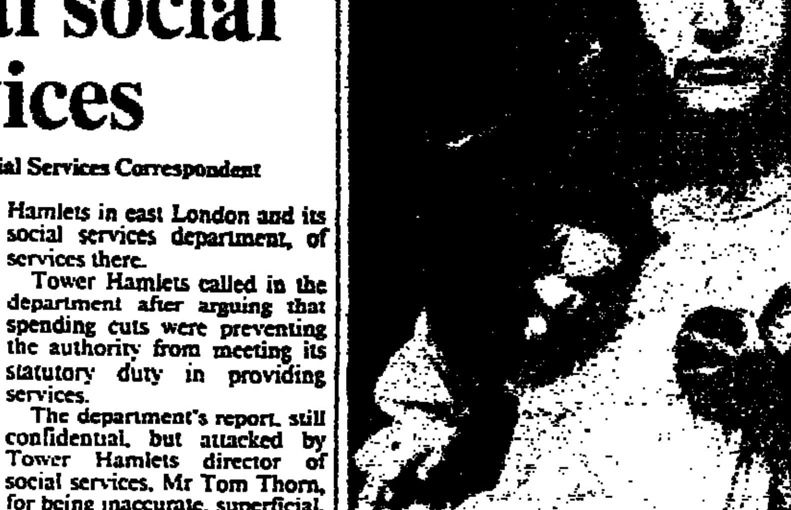
Tower Hamlets called in the department after arguing that spending cuts were preventing the authority from meeting its statutory duty in providing services.

The department's report, still confidential, but attacked by Tower Hamlets director of social services, Mr Tom Thorn, for being inaccurate, superficial, contradictory, and making unsubstantiated comments, is critical of the whole department from field workers to management.

The report of the inspection, which was completed last April, says there was "a poor state of affairs in the department as a whole".

Cases involving children at risk were not being covered when some social workers were complaining of having little to do.

Mr Thorn, in his comments on the report, says it lacks understanding of normal practices in local authority departments, and has failed to investigate how budget restrictions had affected the service, the reason the department was invited in in the first place.


Damages claim: Rita Milla, the Californian woman aged 22 who is suing seven Catholic priests and the Los Angeles diocese for $10m (£7m) for clerical malpractice, claiming that she was seduced by the priests and gave birth to a daughter.

3 children among 11 avalanche dead

From Richard Bassett
Vienna

Avalanches caused by heavy snowfall killed at least seven people and left dozens of skiers injured in western Austria yesterday.

During Wednesday night more than 12ft of snow fell, blocking roads and setting off a series of avalanches. In the small village of Galtuf in Vorarlberg, Austria's westernmost province, a wall of snow crashed onto the side of a wooden *gasthaus*, killing two young children who were sleeping inside.

At St Jakob am Arlberg, a boy age 14 was buried by an avalanche as he was walking to his home less than 50 yards away. Another avalanche at the Swiss frontier post of Samnann left three dead as the weather continued to deteriorate and other skiers had to be dug out of the snow.

By noon yesterday, the Arlberb Tunnel was blocked, leaving Vorarlberg cut off from the rest of the country.

● GENEVA: Four people were killed yesterday by avalanches in central Switzerland and the authorities said that after 80 hours of heavy snowfalls there was a high risk of further avalanches. (AP reports).

Police said seven avalanches within six hours near Les Diablerets in western Switzerland destroyed numerous chalets but no one was injured.

Witness rebuts 'orthodox' version of Aquino murder

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Philippine opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, was shot as he descended the exit stairs of the China Airlines plane, which last August brought him home from three years self-exile in the United States, a witness yesterday said.

The testimony of Mr Fred Viesca, an airport cargo loader, differs radically from that of more than 70 witnesses who have appeared since the inquiry began last October.

Mr Viesca told the five-man panel that he was more than 60ft from the rear of the airliner and about to begin unloading when he heard a single shot.

He saw a man in white, later indentified as Mr Aquino, fall from the mid-section of the stairway. Frightened, he ran off and, although he heard gunfire behind him, he did not see anyone else near Mr Aquino.

The inquiry has so far heard that Mr Aquino was escorted from the airliner by at least four soldiers and was killed on the tarmac between the stairs and a military van, which was to have taken him to a nearby army camp.

Cardinal Sin: Pessimistic about reconciliation.

The military version that a lone civilian gunman penetrated a tight security net and killed Mr Aquino has been dismissed by his family. Mr Viesca's testimony is similar to the family version.

The family claims Mr Aquino received a blow to the back of the head before being shot by a soldier behind him as two others escorted him down the stairway.

● **Marcos denounced:** The Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, yesterday described President Marcos as an oppressor and accused him of using "candy and brass knuckles" to ensure his party stayed in power, even if it lost its majority in the May parliamentary election (AP reports).

But the influential Roman Catholic leader did not spare the opposition. He criticized them for being as rigid and unbending in their demand for the President to resign as Mr Marcos was inflexible in his refusal to give them genuine political concessions. Candinal Sin, a frequent critic of alleged human rights abuses and corruption under the Marcos regime, expressed pessimism about the President's efforts to achieve national reconciliation after the assassination

Cardinal Sin said the opposition, while willing to eliminate antagonisms, wanted to "liquidate the antagonist by forcing him to resign".

Priests' trial moved to bigger court

Manila (AFP) – The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to the transfer of a trial of three roman catholic priests and six church lay workers, accused of murdering a mayor, to another court.

The first hearing was adjourned on Tuesday because the 25-seat court room in the town hall of Kabankalan, in the southern Philippines, was too small for the 500 people trying to attend.

Acting on an urgent petition by the prosecution, defence and the judge, the Supreme Court said the trial should be moved to Bacolod City, the capital of Negros Occidental Province.

Father Brain Gore, an Australian, and Father Niall O'Brien, an Irishman, both of the Columban Order, Father Vicente Dangan, a Filipino, and six church lay workers are charged with the March, 1982, ambush and killing of Mr Pablo Sola, the mayor of Kabankalan, and four aides.

Gold medal for 'frugal' architect

By John Young

Mr Charles Correa, the Indian architect who has won an international reputation for his commitment to housing the urban poor, has been awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects gold medal for 1984.

The citation states that he has always believed that the true problem of low-cost housing is not one of building forms but of proper land use, planning and infrastructure.

"His buildings do not celebrate power or wealth, but demonstrate the virtues of an architecture that is dedicated to good sense and to the spirit of live and let live, that is frugal in its use of materials, and where possible is the product of communal enterprise in which the people involved devise their own solutions."

Mr Correa was born in Hyderabad in 1930, and educated at St Xavier College, Bombay, Michigan University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been in private practice in Bombay for more than twenty years.

In 1970, the government of Maharashtra state accepted his proposals for New Bombay, a settlement for two million people, designed to relieve severe overcrowding in the city.

The medal will be presented by the Prince of Wales at the institute's 150th anniversary banquet at Hampton Court Palace on May 30.


Mr Correa: Committed to housing the poor.

Rate-fixing powers approved

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

MPs voted yesterday to give ministers many of the powers they want to fix the rates of the highest-spending local councils. The first clause of the Rates Bill was passed by 14 to 10 without amendment by the House of Commons standing committee on the Bill.

The clause had an easy passage despite consistent opposition from Labour MPs, and some opposition from the SDP – Liberal Alliance and Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak.

The clause empowers ministers to fix rates for councils they choose for selective "rate-capping". The committee has yet to debate the Bill's more controversial power to cap the rates of all but the smallest councils.

Labour MPs tried yesterday to extend the scope for selective capping to the Metropolitan Police, internal drainage boards and hundreds of parish councils.

Former major in Brearley stamps case is jailed

Robin Houghton, aged 54, former Army major who tricked the former England cricket captain Mike Brearley and others in a £100,000 stamps fraud, was jailed yesterday.

He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, 12 of them suspended, after being convicted on Wednesday on eight charges of fraud and deception. Five theft charges were withdrawn during the trial.

Houghton, who ran a stamp investment service from his home at Toad Hall, Huntworth, Somerset, induced 18 clients to invest more than £100,000 in stamps which were not worth the money, Bristol Crown Court was told.

Mr James Black, QC, for the defence, said that Houghton genuinely wanted to make good the losses.

PC is charged

Robert Anthony Sampson, aged 24, a police constable, of Clevelys Avenue, Leeds, was committed by Leeds Magistrates for trial at Leeds Crown Court charged with stealing £1,000 from Leon Parrish and John Eastwood on December 3. Bail and legal aid were granted.

Labour wins a tactical victory on data Bill

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Labour MPs appeared to have won a tactical victory in their attempt to have manual files on individuals covered by the Data Protection Bill.

After a ruling yeasterday by Mr John Huny, Conservative MP for Ravensbourne and chairman of the committee considering the Bill, Labour MPs were convinced there would now be a full debate on the issue.

They believe that will result from the procedural ruling which removed the committee from the impasse it reached on Tuesday, when it adjourned acrimoniously amid Labour protests at Mr Hunt's decision not to include for consideration amendments referring to manually processed records.

it fell with the election. Mr Hunt said that the Bill was exclusively concerned with automatic processing. In his view amendments to cover manual processing went beyond the scope of the Bill and were, therefore, out of order.

Mr Hunt is, however, allowing Labour MPs to table an amendment seeking to include in the Bill data "in a form capable of being processed" by equipment operating automaticallly in response to instructions

The amendment was chosen because it sought to define what was regarded as processable data, he said. Labour MPs think that data "in a form capable of being processed" must include that stored in manual form, allowing them to have a full

Anglo-Swapo response to ceasefire encourages Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A *de facto* ceasefire is already operating in southern Angola and northern Namibia, and "a very promising climate" has been created, in which it might be possible to end hostilities permanently, Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said.

Reporting to foreign journalists here on the response of Angola and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) guerrillas to Pretoria's January 31 announcement that it was disengaging its forces in Angola, Mr Botha said that, from South Africa's point of view, it was encouraging and satisfactory.

If nothing happens to disturb this assessment, the next step is likely to be a meeting between Luanda and Pretoria to discuss a joint mechanism for monitoring a ceasefire and investigating alleged breaches of it.

"We have in practice at this moment a ceasefire... and steps are being taken, I believe, both by the South African Government and the Angolan Government, to put into effect a ceasefire for 30 days, to be extended beyond 30 days hopefully," Mr Botha said.

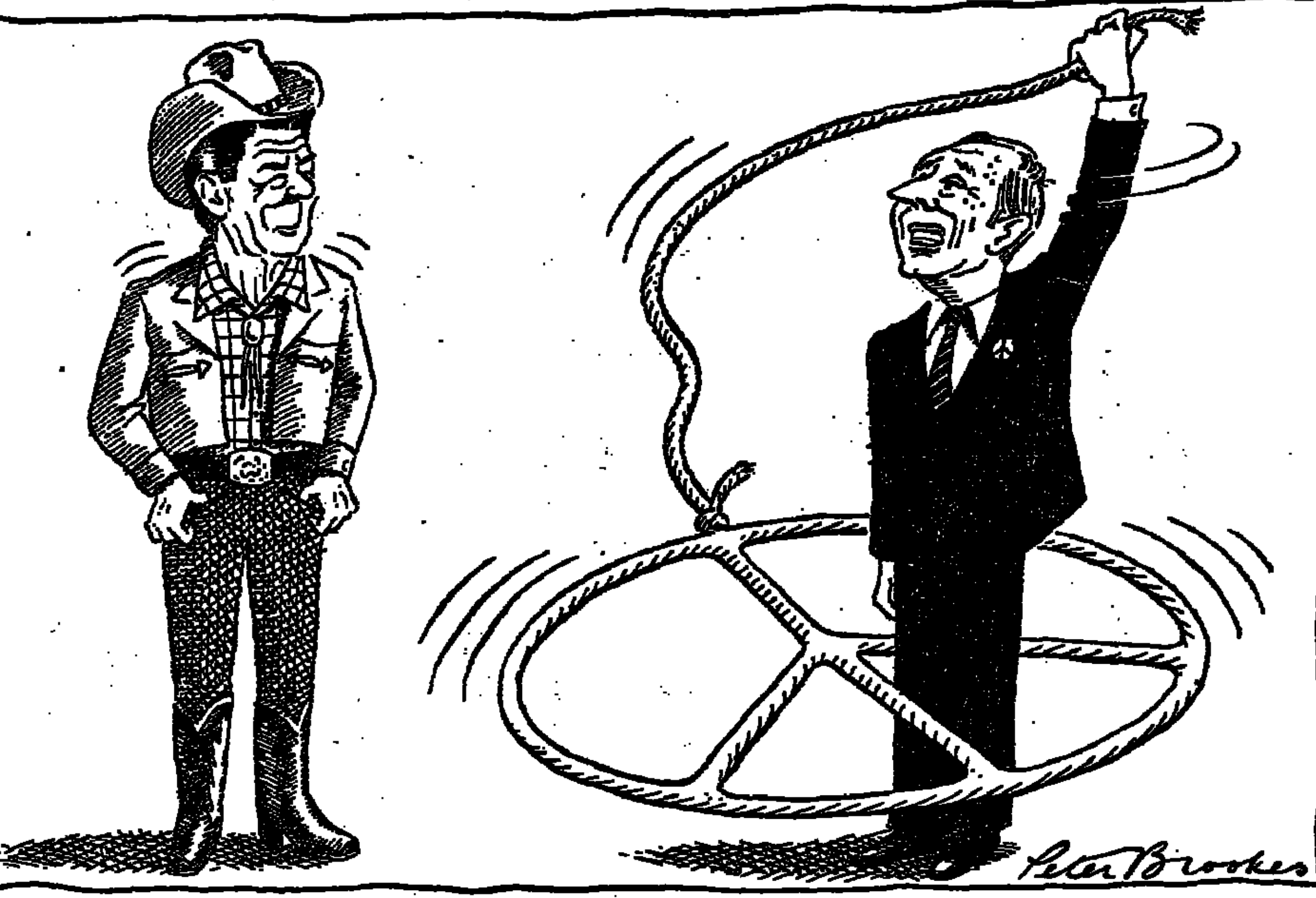
What is not clear is to what extent Angola will be able to negotiate and answer for Swapo, which has its bases in southern Angola. The guerrillas have been fighting for Namibia's independence for the last 17 years.

Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, said on Wednesday during a visit to Rome that his guerrillas would observe "the so-called 30-day disengagement of forces provided that after 30 days there will be talks between Swapo and South Africa to sign a ceasefire".

Mr Botha, and Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, have said talks with Swapo are possible, but they would have to be conducted by the South African Adminstrator-General in Namibia, heading a delegation of political parties in the territory.

It seems doubtful that Swapo will be prepared to negotiate these terms. It has long regarded the "internal" political parties in Namibia as Pretoria's puppets and has refused to accept them as genuine representatives of Namibian opinion. Swapo claims to be the sole authentic representative of the people.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Botha, also told journalists that South Africa would continue to insist on the removal of Cuban troops from Angola before the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.



'It just ain't gonna work, Mr Kinnock'

Koreas to meet face to face on border

Seoul – South Korea offered yesterday to meet North Korean representatives for the first time in four years and give them Seoul's response to a northern offer of peace talks.

The Government said two officials would travel to the border village of Panmunjom today to deliver a message from South Korean Prime Minister, Mr Chin Iee Chong, to his newly appointed northern counterpart, Mr Kang Sung San.

North Korea proposed last month that tripartite peace talks be held between the United States and the two Koreas.

Bangladesh told to show officer

Dkaka (Reuter) – The Bangladesh High Court has ordered the Government to produce a leader of a bloody coup in 1975 who disappeared last month after returning from abroad.

Retired Colonel Faruk Rahman, a former tank brigade officer, was a leader of the military coup in which former President Shaikh Mujibur Rahman and several members of his family were killled.

Lisbon protest

Lisbon (Reuter) – Riot police dispersed 4,000 angry shipyard workers who blocked Lisbon's Tagus bridge for nearly an hour, demanding the payment of back wages.

Eight people were reported to have been injured when the demonstration was broken up.

Appeals fail

Rangoon (Reuter) – The Burmese Supreme Court rejected an appeal against death sentences imposed on two North Korean officers for the Rangoon bomb blasts which killed 21 people last October.

Boy tortured

Moscow (Reuter) – Four men were sentenced to death for torturing and killing a 15-year-old boy while on a drunken spree in Khabarovsk.

Hawke's tip

Peking (Reuter) – Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, is confident that there will be a satisfactory outcome to the Sino-British talks on the future of Hongkong, according to the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, who met Mr Zhao.

Lucknow deaths

Delhi (Reuter) – About 40 people were believed to have drowned when a river boat capsized on the Gomati River near Lucknow.

Porn penalty

Nairobi (AFP) – Two women were jailed for six months each at Kakamega, Kenya, for having copies of a pornographic magazine and a 1979 *Playboy* calendar. The sentence follows President Moi's demand this week for strict enforcement of laws against pornography.

Changing race

Cape Town (AP) – South Africa changed the races of 690 people last year, according to official statistics. Two thirds had been coloureds (mixed race) who became white. Seventy-one blacks became Coloureds and 11 whites were classfied to other race groups.

Sultan of Johore elected King

Kuala Lumpur (Reuter) – The Sultan of Johore, a convicted killer and head of Malaysia's only private army, was elected the country's new King yesterday.

An official announcement said that Malaysia' nine hereditary rulers chose Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, aged 51, who has a penchant for wearing military uniforms and weapons, to succeed King Ahmad Shah, whose term in office expires in April.

The sultans, who elect a King from their ranks every five years, had been expected to choose Sultan Idris Shah of Perak, but his death last week threw open the succession question. Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, the ruler of Malaysia's southernmost state, emerged as the most eligible candidate on seniority, and was selected in a secret ballot after a three-day meeting.

He is described by political anaysts as independent and strong-willed. He was convicted of culpable homicide after a shooting incident in 1977, but was later pardoned by his father.

The man who will take the title of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong as monarch of Malaysia's 13.5 million peope was removed from the Johore line of succession in 1961 for his erratic behaviour. He was reinstated as Crown Prince shortly before his father died in 1981.

The new Sultan of Perak, Raja Azlan Shah, who succeeded his late cousin, was elected Deputy King.

The election issue has dominated Malaysian politics since last August, when the Government of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, introduced legislation to curb the powers of the King and the sultans.

The rulers opposed the changes, setting off a bitter constitutional crisis which divided the traditional royalist Malays. The deadlock was broken in December with a compromise which left the sultan's powers intact but prevented the King from delaying legislation passed by Parliament.

The Sultan of Johore maintains a private army.

Kinnock in talks with US leaders

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The crisis in Lebanon dominated the first day of talks which Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, held in Washington yesterday with representatives of both political parties at the start of his six-day visit to the United States.

What should have been a five-minute courtesy call on Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the House Speaker, turned into a half-hour discussion in which both men agreed on the need for swift inplementation of President Reagan's decision to remove the Marines.

Kohl attacked from all sides

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Manfred Wörner, the embattled Defence Minister, testified again yesterday to the parliamentary inquiry into the dismissal of General Günter Kiessling, as criticism of him and of Chancellor Helmut Kohl continued to echo down the political corridors of Bonn.

Social Democrats called Herr Wörner's evidence on Wednesday "more than unsatisfactory" and said he added nothing to what was already known.

Meanwhile the press and some members of the coalition Government have continued, openly and in private, to criticize the Chancellor's decision to retain Herr Wörner in his post. Significantly the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union did not defend Herr Kohl during the parliamentary debate on the affair, and the *Bayernkurier*, the CSU organ, said Herr Kohl bore sole responsibility for what was decided.

Comparison is pointedly being made with Herr Georg Leber, a former Social Democratic Defence Minister, who was forced to resign after a scandal over illegal phone tapping by the military intelligence to make a scapegoat out of Herr Joachim Hiehle, the State Secretary responsible for military intelligence, who will not be returning to his job after he recovers from his present illness.

Herr Kohl faced further criticism in Parliament yesterday during a debate on his recent visit to Israel. The opposition asked awkward questions about the presence in his party of a journalist who had worked on a Nazi newspaper and written an article attacking the attempt on Hitler's life. The Social Democrats accused Herr Kohl of ruining attempts to repair German relations with Jews.

The Chancelor spiritedly defended his determination to establish a balanced relationship with all parties in the Middle East, and said none of the weapons systems that might be delivered to Saudi Arabia threatened Israel's security.

Leading article, page 15

Illness delays installation of woman Governor

From John Best Ottawa

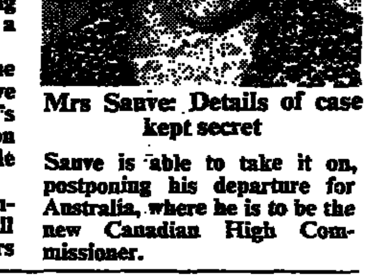
Illness has forced an indefinite postponement of the installation of Mrs Jeanne Sauve as Canada's next Governor-General.

Mrs Sauve, aged 61, has been in Ottawa General Hospital for several weeks, suffering froma respiratory ailment, complicated by an allergy to drugs.

Details of her case have been kept secret, although this week she was described as having improved after being in a serious condition.

The former Speaker of the House of Commons was to have taken over as the Queen's representative in Canada on March 5, but will not be able to.

The present Governor-General, Mr Edward Schreyer, will remain in the post until Mrs Sauve is able to take it on, postponing his departure for Australia, where he is to be the new Canadian High Commissioner.



Mrs Sauve: Details of case kept secret

Meeting of peace groups breaks up in disarray

From Mario Modiano, Athens

An international conference for the denuclearization of Europe which brought together for the first time 67 peace movements from 29 countries of East and Western Europe and North America, ended here yesterday in complete disarray.

A draft communique calling for an immediate nuclear freeze, as well as a "no-first-strike pledge by all nuclear powers, started such a storm of protests that it was not even put up for adoption.

The four-day conference underlined the profound divisions between Western peace movements and the officially-sponsoreed peace committees in East Europe both on the causes of the nuclear deadlock and the repression of the independent peace mevements in communist countries.

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The Lebanon crisis ● shock waves in US ● Damascus appeals to Europe ● rockets hit Israel

Washington anger over Reagan's role in Beirut pull-out decision

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Two aspects of President Reagan's decision to pull the American Marines out of Beirut have provoked angry criticism and shock, even among hardbitten political observers in Washington.

First, there was the revelation by Administration officials that the President made a tentative decision to withdraw the Marines over two weeks ago. Yet he continued to maintain in public that their role remained unchanged and denounced critics of his Lebanon policy as advocating "surrender".

Then there was his decision to go ahead with his planned holiday in California while his senior aides, led by Vice-President Bush, were left to preside over the biggest foreign policy setback of the Reagan Administration.

As is to be expected, the Administration is trying hard to present the events of the past few days in the best possible light. Officials maintain there has not been a significant change in US policy towards Lebanon.

The decision to withdraw the Marines and to resort to naval shelling of hostile gun batteries was, in the words of the State Department spokesman, "only a change in the pattern of redeployment and our estimate of what is the most effective way to use our forces".

According to Administration officials, President Reagan first set the withdrawal plan in motion on January 21 after hearing a report on the situation in Lebanon from Mr Donald Rumsfeld, his special envoy.

At that meeting a "package deal" was proposed involving increased military assistance for the beleaguered Government of President Amin Gemayel accompanied by a phased removal of American troops.

The package was intended more as a compromise between Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary (who wanted the troops out), and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State (who wanted them to stay), than as a means of shoring up President Gemayel's tottering administration.

A withdrawal plan was presented to the President on January 26 and was approved in principle by the President on February 1. This was the day on which Mr Reagan attacked Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and outspoken critic of the Administration policy in Lebanon, in an interview in the *Wall Street Journal*.

"He (O'Neill) may be ready to surrender, but I'm not," Mr Reagan remarked. "If we get out, that's the end of Lebanon."

The decision to implement the withdrawal plan was taken on Sunday after the collapse of the Lebanese Government. President Gemayel was informed on Moday.

A formal announcement of the withdrawal plan was not due to be made until Wednesday but was brought forward to Tuesday evening after word had started to leak out in Washington and from European capitals.

Significantly, the announcement was not made by the President but was merely contained in a White House press release handed to journalists late on Tuesday. This, together with the continuation of his holiday plans, is part of a deliberate attempt by White House aides to keep the President as distant from the withdrawal decision as possible.

Faces of war: General James Joy, commander of the US Marines in Beirut, and Muslim fighters outside St Michael's

Druze chief warns US on shelling

Damascus (NYT) – The Lebanese Druze leader said here that his forces would retaliate against American diplomats and civilians in Lebanon if US warships continued their indiscriminate shelling of Druze villages.

"We will not allow our people to be killed without taking revenge", Mr Walid Jumblatt said in an interview on Wednesday. "If they want us to be terrorists, we are ready to be terrorists: if they want us to be extremists, we are ready to be extremists."

He spoke a few hours after the battleship New Jersey had fired 200 shells from its 16-inch guns towards targets in the mountains overlooking Beirut.

The Druze leader said he had telephoned the US Ambassador to urge that the shelling of Druze villages be stopped.

Syria urges Britain to take diplomatic lead

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Syria is calling on Britain and other European countries to take a diplomatic lead in the Middle East, independently of the United States, according to sources in London.

The point has been made in three or four letters from Damascus to the Foreign Office and was underlined by President Assad when he saw Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Damascus last month.

The EEC's 1980 Venice declaration (that the Palestine Liberation Organization be associated with peace talks) would be a good starting point for negotiations, the sources said. Although a succession of American envoys had been calling in Damascus once or twice a week, they had not succeeded in coming up with any new ideas.

"Europe understands the Middle East better than the United States does. The European view may not correspond with ours, but it is more negotiable."

The sources said acceptance of a UN force in Lebanon would be a matter for any Beirut government of national unity, which Syria would like to see established, or for a national reconciliation conference. Syria would accept such a decision.

Equally, Syria would accept Mr Yassir Afafat as leader of the PLO if he were chosen by the Palestine National Council.

The sources said Syrian forces would remain in Lebanon until after Israeli troops had quit their positions in the south of the country. The May 17 withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon was now dead.

But there could be no lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs while the power gap between the two sides remained

Thatcher defends evacuation decision

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister yesterday defended in the Commons the decision to withdraw British troops from Beirut before the evacuation of British subjects from Lebanon.

She told MPs that from their headquarters the British troops would have been unable to help British civilians in West Beirut. They were better able to help them from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant, to which they were moved.

Mrs Thatcher said it had been right to withdraw the British contingent rather than to leave them in a dangerous and exposed position. They were unable to carry out the task which had been allocated to them of safeguarding the bank where the ceasefire talks were taking place (there had been none since January 16) and patrolling in West Beirut, which had become impossible.

Sharon hopes to lead Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A year after being condemned by the Kahan report on the Beirut massacres, Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's former Defence Minister, announced unexpectedly yesterday that he hopes to be the country's next Prime Minister, and to that end will submit himself for election as the next leader of the right wing Herut Party.

Herut, which is at present led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, is the dominant grouping withing the ruling right-wing Likud coalition. If Mr Sharon were to succeed in toppling Mr Shamir when the next vote is taken (no date is fixed or expected for such a contest in its central committee), he would automatically become Likud candidate for Prime Minister.

Mr Sharon, who is 55, made his announcement while speaking to students in Tel Aviv. It was seen as a defiant gesture at a time when he is under intense political attack after allegations in two books by Israeli journalists that he seriously misled both the Cabinet and Knesset during the Lebanon war, of which he was the chief architect.

So far, Mr Sharon, Israel's most controversial politician, has repeatedly failed in his attempts to make a political comeback. Last month, he suffered a humiliating defeat when he stood for the elected post as head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department.

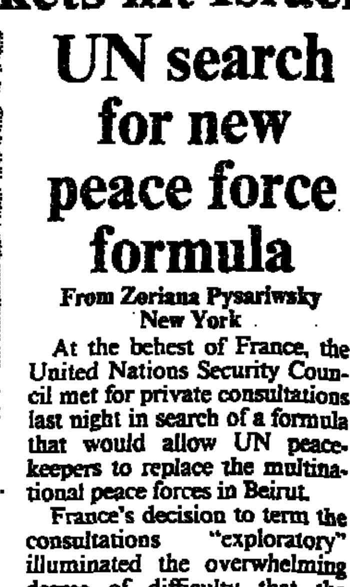
On the recommendation of the Kahan commission, Mr Sharon was dismissed from his post as Defence Minister 12 months ago and demoted to Minister without Portfolio. The fact he was kept on in the Government was criticized by many opposition politicians who claimed it contravened the spirit of the report's recommendations.

Since then, Mr Sharon has frequently complained loudly about being under-employed in the Government, and has become increasingly divorced from his colleagues, even some of those on the extreme right wing of Israeli politics.

His political behaviour has been described as increasingly erratic, but his loyal aides remain convinced that he still has an important role to play.

Although the former general enjoys considerable grass roots support in the extreme right wing Herut movement, political observers said last night that it was extremely unlikely that he coud win any leadership contest. But his candidature could badly divide the party and even further disunite the Likud.

When Mr Shamir was elected last year to succeed Mr Menachem Begin, Mr Sharon advised his supporters to back him against the other candidate, Mr David Levy, and has since been resentful of receiving no political award for his gesture.



UN search for new peace force formula

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

At the behest of France, the United Nations Security Council met for private consultations last night in search of a formula that would allow UN peacekeepers to replace the multinational peace forces in Beirut.

France's decision to term the consultations "exploratory" illuminated the overwhelming degree of difficulty that the initiative was expected to encounter. Practically every party which is either directly involved or an active obsever in the Lebanese conflict has placed its own conditions and obstacles to an UN presence in Beirut.

Given the consensus principle among the five permanent members of the Security Conecil, any pursuit in the face of Soviet objections would prove academic.

Diplomats believe that Moscow will continue to block moves to bring the UN to Beirut until the United States acknowledges a Soviet role and brings it into the Middle East dialogue. With the political mood in Washington marked by enmity and diplomatic competitiveness with Moscow, such a move seems unlikely.

The Soviet Union is perfectly happy to watch from the sidelines as the West struggles in the Lebanese quagmire. At the same time, it is in a position to act as Syria's broker in the Council and invoke Syrian objections to a UN force based on the premise that the strife in Lebanon is an internal matter outside the realm of the Council's responsibilities.

If the United States persuades Syria to accept UN troops as part of a package deal, at least one of the hurdles will be crossed. But some diplomats here feel that the US may not be too enthusiastic about the French initiative.

It is felt that if the American decision to remove the Marines from Beirut presages complete disengagement in the area then a UN presence would be desirable. But if a continuing military effort is envisaged then UN peacekeeping forces could have the effect of restricting American movement in the area and make it diplomatically difficult for the marines to return to Beirut if deemed necessary.

Suggestions that the multinational peacekeeping troops, including the withdrawn British contingent, could return to Beirut wearing the blue berets of UN peacekeepers is unlikely to gain the approval of either the Soviet Union, should it give the green light to a force at all, or the Muslim militias. The latter found the multinational force tainted by American and French actions aimed at protecting the Goverament of President Amin Gemayel.

UN troops in Beirut would fall under a unified command answerable to the Secretary-General who, in turn, must report to the Security Council. Any UN peacekeeping force could then become hostage to the political intricacies of the Council

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, has set further prerequisities, including reconciliation and agreement among all the warring Lebanese factions. He has also stated that a request for a UN force in Beirut must come from the Lebanese Government.

Likud embarrassed as rockets hit Galilee

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

For only the second time since the invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982, Soviet-built Katyusha rockets were fired yesterday from Lebanon into northern Galilee, forcing Jewish residents of the border town of Metulla to flee to their shelters.

Although there were no casualties, the attack was an embarrassing setback for the Likud Government, which has often boasted that the main achievement of the controversial Lebanon war was to make northern Israel free from cross-border terrorism.

Last night, the military commandd confirmed that two craters had been found in the Metulla region, and a third across the border in Lebanon.

A big army search, including helicoopters, was launched to find the source of the attack which was initially thought to have originated from territory under Israeli control. The rockets have a range of about five miles.

● LONDON: Israeli military intelligence has found evidence of mobile missiles, manned by Soviet troops in the Bekaa Valley in northern Lebanon (Henry Stanhope writes).

The missiles are understood to be the SS21s, ground-launched replacements for the elderly Frog missiles, which have been in Russian service for many years.

According to sources here, the Russians have been trundling the SS21s, which have a range of 75 miles, across the Syrian border. Their presence is considered to be an "escalating step" by the Israelis.

Russia has about 7,000 "advisers" in Syria, according to Jerusalem estimates. The number went up from 5,000 when the Sam 5s were deployed in 1982.

The SS21s are among the latest generation of Soviet missiles which have been introduced in Eastern Europe as well as the Middle East.

Rabat to renew Cairo ties

Rabat (AP) – King Hassan of Morocco and President Mubarak of Egypt have agreed to resume diplomatic relations, broken since Egypt's 1978 Camp David agreements with Israel, sources said yesterday.

No date was fixed for the resumption of ties nor was it certain that the agreement would be mentioned in today's joint communiqué at the end of President Mubarak's four-day official visit, the sources said.

All Arab states, with the exception of Oman, Sudan and Somalia, broke relations with Egypt after Camp David under a joint decision of the Arab League.

Officials said the two leaders disussed the possible readmission of Egypt to the Arab League, but no action would be taken before the next summit. President Mubarak is due to meet President Mitterrand in Paris later today.

Salvadorean rebels offer peace plan

From Martha Honey
San José, Costa Rica

The Salvadorean guerrillas yesterday presented a plan for peace negotiations "without preconditions' with representatives of the Salvadorean Government, the Army and the United States.

A spokesman in Costa Rica for the FMLN-FDR front called the plan "a political bombshell", arguing that its "highly conciliatory" nature should make it acceptable to both the United States and the Salvadorean right.

The plan, made public at a press conference in Mexico City, proposes negotiations aimed at forming a broad-based provisional government in El Salvador composed of representatives of the guerrillas, political parties, the Army, the business sector, workers, farmers and students. Among its tasks would be to draw up a provisional constitution and organize democratic elections.

The proposed negotiations would also lead to the withdrawal of US military advisers, a ceasefire and the unification of the Salvadorean and guerrilla armies

The United States argues that it is not a party to the conflict, and should act as a mediator in any talks between the Salvadorean Government and the guerrillas, but the FMLN-FDR official said that, under the rebel plan, impartial mediators "acceptable to all parties" would be selected to participate in negotiations.

The proposal comes at a time when the guerrillas have been making spectacular military gains.



Flying free: Captain Bruce McCandless appears upside down alongside Challenger's tailplane during exercises yesterday. The Earth is in the background

Fourth shuttle setback as robot arm fails

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The space shuttle Challenger suffered its fourth setback yesterday when a "free-fly" by two astronauts was abandoned because of a fault in the craft's robot arm.

Captain Bruce McCandless and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stewart, the first men to fly in space without being tethered to a spaceship, were to have practised chasing a spinning satellite. But the Challenger's remote-control arm developed a fault in one of the joints.

The arm was to have lifted a pallet above the Challenger and spin it slowly while the astronauts flew to it and tried to attach a docking device. The exercise was intended as practice for retrieving satellites, which normally spin slowly for stability.

Although the manoeuvre was abandoned, the astronauts rehearsed docking with the pallet while it remained in Challenger's hold. They wore the backpacks that earlier this week allowed them to manoeuvre freely in space.

Captain McCandless was the first to fly around the hold yesterday. He did several docking exercises with the pallet.

The high spot of the mission, the tenth by the shuttle, was the flight using the backpacks for the first time, but almost every other exercise has gone wrong.

General leaves the Greens

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn

General Gert Bastian, a leading member of the Greens party, told his parliamentary colleagues yesterday he was leaving the party, as he threatened to do last month, because of profound disagreements over its development and policies.

He said in a letter to the parliamentary faction that this "difficult step" did not mean his rejection of the Green movement, which he still considered necessary, but because the party had not been able to improve its structural organisation

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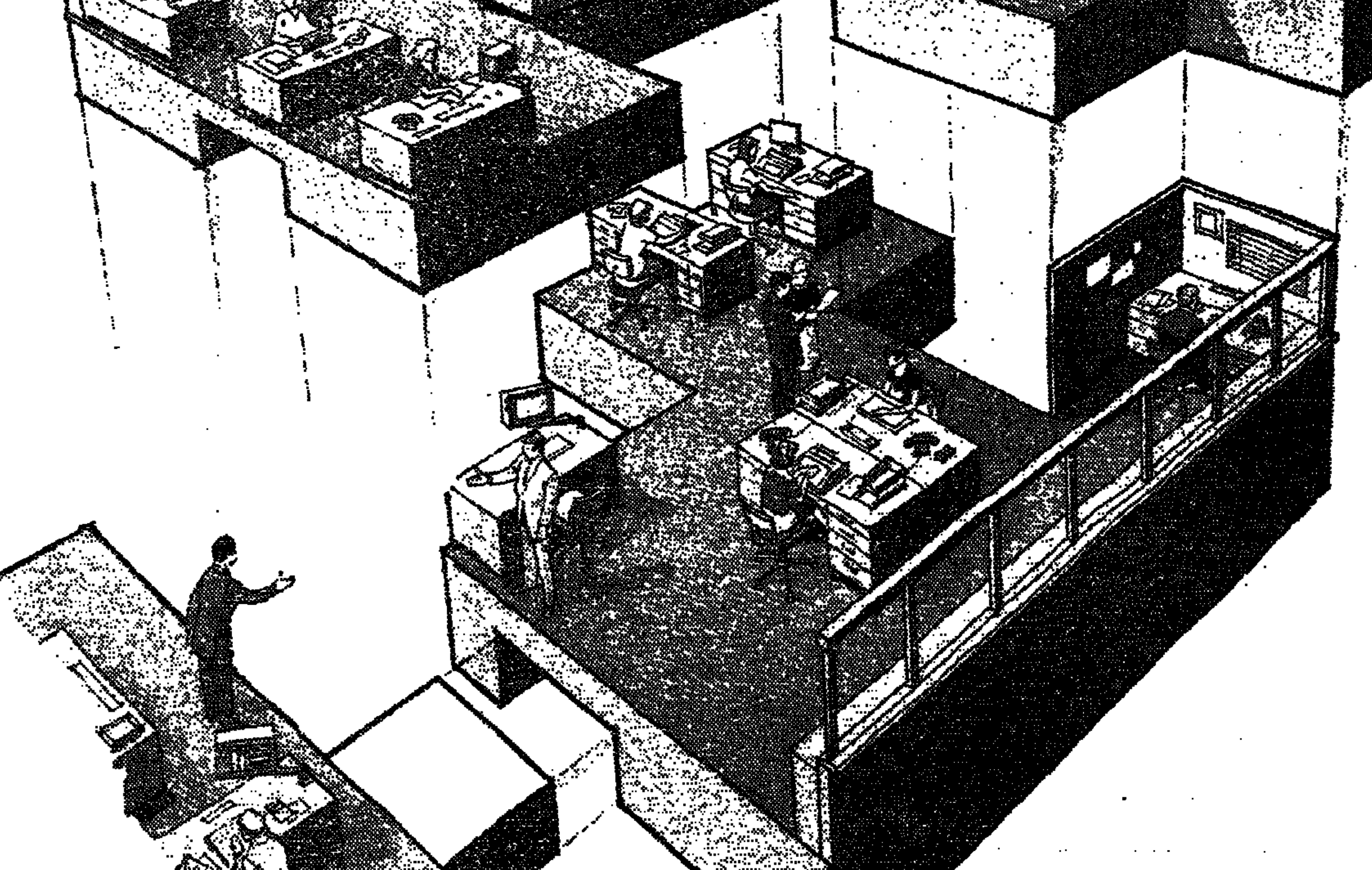
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Alfonsín sets watchdog to investigate corruption charges against military

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The Government of President Raúl Alfonsín has launched an investigation into economic crimes and corruption which occurred under the same military regime it is prosecuting for large-scale human rights violations.

The Government has asked a state agency to investigate "economic crimes and irregularities to the detriment of the national interest which may have been committed by officials of the (military) Government" which ruled from 1976 until December 10 last year.

Justifying the measure, President Alfonsín said in a decree issued on Wednesday night that "many officials of the *de facto* regime have been accused of multiple and extremely serious irregularities and crimes which affect the national patrimony".

A number of former officials have already been charged with economic corruption in cases now being tried by both military and civilian courts, but the new decree would centralize all evidence of corruption in the office of the National Prosecutor for Administrative Investigations, the Government's watchdog agency.

The investigation is to include civilian functionaries of the military regime. The Presidential decree states that punishment for possible crimes "is a fundamental measure to deter future criminal conduct, thereby moralizing public administration".

The decreee hints that the investigation may focus on possible corruption connected with the country's $43.7 billion (£31 billion) foreign debt, which grew disproportionately under the military, and on the payment of illegal commissions on public works projects regarded as "superfluous and tremendously costly".

● **Falklands impasse:** Señor Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, has again stated Argentina's unwillingness to begin discussions on the Falklands dispute with Britain that might imply an acceptance of British sovereignty

"We cannot accept that the beginning of conversations with Great Britain should be tacit admission of British sovereignty", Señor Caputo said

He added that his Government was preparing an official response to the "specific ideas" proposed by Britain to normalize relations, which he said include reestablishing commercial relations in exchange for the return of the bodies of Argentine soldiers killed on the Falklands.

Señor Caputo said that any plan to reinitiate British-Argentine negotiations "must take into account the defortification of the Malvinas and the consideration of the rights of the Argentines on the islands".

He also promised that Argentina "will continue to exert its imagination and goodwill" to find a way of reestablishing the situation which existed before the 1982 war.

Victory salute: Masked Turkish political refugees give themselves up after occupying the Turkish National Airlines office in central Athens for two hours yesterday in protest against the military authorities in Ankara.

Hint of Pakistani atom bomb

Lahore (Reuter) – Pakistan's leading nuclear scientist said yesterday his country could now enrich uranium and hinted it could produce its own atomic bomb.

"Pakistan has broken the Western countries' monopoly on the enrichment of uranium," Mr Abdul Qadir Khan said in an interview published here. Mr Khan told the Urdu-language daily *Nawa-I-Waqt* that Pakistan's atomic energy programme was for peaceful purposes.

But he added: "If in the interest of the country's solidarity, the President of Pakistan were in extreme need and gave the team of scientists an important mission, it would not disappoint the nation."

Mr Khan was tried last year by an Amsterdam court for attempting to steal uranium enrichment secrets from a research centre in The Netherlands where he once worked. The court convicted him of attempted espionage and sentenced him in his absence to a four-year jail term. Mr Khan denied the charges.

Pakistan, which is not a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, has long been eager to obtain its own enrichment facilities.

India, Pakistan's main military and political rival, exploded a nuclear device in 1974. But Mr Khan said Delhi had now lost its lead in nuclear technology and was far behind Pakistan.

'Dirty war' claims more lives

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The mysterious "Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups" (GAL) yesterday claimed responsibility for Wednesday night's murder of two suspected Basque terrorists living in south-west France.

An anonymous telephone caller spoke in Spanish and French. The killings, which occurred just across the frontier in Hendaye, were, the caller indicated, in revenge for the recent killings by ETA's military wing Army general in Madrid. GAL had previously threatened to take two lives for every person killed by ETA.

Street demonstrations and factory strikes to protest against the killings were held yesterday in many Basque towns.

This latest eruption of the so-called "dirty war" comes before the start today of the general election campaign in the Basque country and the meeting between Spanish and French ministers, this weekend, thus forcing to the fore the issue terrorism.

GAL has assassinated four important figures in ETA in the past two months. The man killed on Wednesday is understood to be the head of the squads which arrange for ETA activists on terrorist missions to pass across the frontier undetected by the police.

Questioned in Parliament last week Señor José Barriouvuevo, the Interior Minister, could not identify the men behind GAL, but all the killings show the group has access to excellent information about ETA.

Ministry sources have denied any police involvement. This leaves as the prinicipal suspect Basque industrialists, who have suffered from ETA's so-called "revolutionary tax" blackmail and may have hired professional killers in France.

Senate and House elections

Democrats aim to regain lost ground

Nicholas Ashford, concluding his two-part series from Washington, looks at the non-presidential prizes to be won in November.

ELECTION 84

Although the presidential election will inevitably attract most public attention in the US and overseas, important contests will also be taking place on November 6 to fill all 435 seats in the House of representatives, 33 Senate seats and 13 state governors' mansions.

"Control" will be the dominant theme in the congressional elections. For the Republican Party, the most important task will be to keep control of the Senate, which it unexpectedly captured in 1980. As President Reagan remarked recently: "Nothing matters more than keeping the Senate."

The Republicans will also seek to reduce the Democrats' sizable majority in the House, although they stand no chance of gaining a majority.

For the Democrats the Senate offers the most tempting target. Although Republicans hold a 55 to 45 advantage, Democrats appear confident they can gain the six seats needed to assure them control. Of the 33 Senate seats being contested (the winners will retain their seats for six years), 19 are held by Republicans, of which up to 10 could be in serious jeopardy.

By contrast, most of the 14 Democratic seats being contested are considered fairly safe. However, a combination of a reviving economy, a strong reelection campaign by President Reagan and plenty of Republican money could produce some surprise upsets.

In the House, the Democrats will strive to retain the comfortable majority they established in the 1982 mid-term election by winning 26 seats from the Republicans, giving them a lead of 268 to 167. (House seats are held for a two-year term). Although they had retained a majority after the 1980 elections, they temporarily lost working control of the House because of President Reagan's ability to persuade conservative Southern Democrats – known as "boll weevils" – to support his economic programme.

Of the 13 governors' seats up for election this year, seven are held by Republicans, almost half their national total of 15. The Republicans will be lucky to hold their own in the gubernatorial races.

In the Senate the most prominent target for the Democrats is Senator Jesse Helms, of North Carolina, a leading congressional conservative and confidant of President Reagan, who is being strongly challenged by Governor James Hunt.

Other seats Democrats are confident of capturing are those being vacated by Senator Howard Baker (Tennessee), the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator John Tower (Texas), chairman of the armed services committee. Both states are traditionally Democratic.

Also high on the Democrats' list of targets are Senate seats for Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico and South Carolina.

Two Democratic senators will not been seeking reelection. They are Senator Jennings Randolph, of West Virginia, who is retiring and Senator Paul Tsongas, of Massachusetts, who is quitting because of ill-health. Both seats appear securely Democratic, but the Republicans believe they have a chance of seizing Senate seats from the Democrats in Michigan, Montana and Virginia.

Neither party is forecasting big upsets in the House and it is possible that as many as 400 of the 434 members (one seat is vacant) will be back when the ninety-ninth Congress convenes next January. "This election is going to be boring on the House side," Mr Martin Franks, director of the Democrats' House campaign committee, said.

Both parties will be concentrating efforts on the freshmen (52 Democrats, 24 Republicans) elected in 1982. The Republicans are also planning a heavily-financed campaign to unseat Mr James Jones (Oklahoma), chairman of the House budget committee, and believe they have a chance of ousting Mr Donald Albosta, who is heading the inquiry into the purloining of President Carter's 1980 debate papers, from his Michigan constituency.

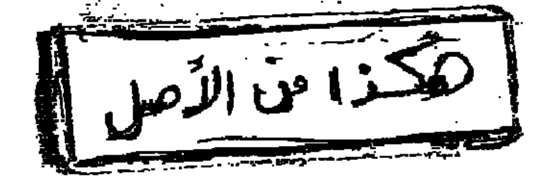
The Democrats hope to oust Mr Robert Michel, House Minority Leader, who narrowly survived a strong challenge in his Illinois district in 1982, Mr Daniel Carne, also of Illinois, and Mr George Hansen, of Idaho. They also believe increased black voter registration could tip the balance in their favour in several Southern states.

In the gubernatorial races, Republicans will face strong challenges in Missouri and Washington, while the Democrats could lose West Virginia, where Governor Jay Rockefeller is forbidden a third consecutive term.

Concluded



Republican Senators Howard Baker (left), who is retiring, and Jesse Helms, an important target for the Democrats.



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SPECTRUM

4 rooms, 4 views

What is a room? Four artists were asked to design a room each and they came up with four wildly different ideas, from the chill of an operating theatre to a sculpture like a tree house. Today they go on public display. BERYL DOWNING reports.

"Four Rooms" opens today at Liberty's in London. Michael Regan, exhibition organizer at the Arts Council, wanted to commission four rooms which were artistic statements but which also involved objects that could be made and sold. He wrote to a dozen stores, of which 11 either did not reply or told him to come back in five years.

They had forgotten, perhaps, that artists could be designers. After all, before the Second World War, Graham Sutherland and Dufy designed textiles and Ben Nicholson designed ceramics. Liberty, though, have always worked with artist/designers and were happy to organize the selling and host the show.

"The brief was totally open", says Regan. "I gave the height and dimensions only and said go away and think about the function of a room.

"I wanted them to be art works so that the objects in them took a secondary role but contributed to the whole enviroment. I didn't say, 'Design furniture that could be manufactured'. I said 'Design objects for your own room and then we'll see whether any manufacturer is interested.'

"Although some objects are for sale, I wanted the rooms to work as art, with a life of their own. I was worried they might produce terribly domestic interiors and I am pleased that the results are four startlingly different rooms. They are not rooms you could live in, but they make you think about how we decorate and how we occupy the space we live in." There is, of course, something unusual about an Arts Council exhibition appearing in a commercial department store, but this has not affected the art one bit.

Photographs by Philip Sayer



HOWARD HODGKIN

Howard Hodgkin, painter and print-maker, has been chosen to represent Britain at next year's Venice Biennale. He uses thick blocks of colour almost like building bricks and his favourite blob motif is represented in his crowded, tented room by paw marks and leopard prints. The whole room is like an over-stuffed sofa and is crammed with furniture all round the walls – squashy chairs and sofas in blue glazed chintz interspersed with low plywood tables painted with paw marks. These look spontaneous, but were carefully applied under Hodgkin's instruction by Nicholas Gammon, building up layers of diluted acrylic paint, painted wet on wet to achieve the depth of finish. The lamps are in patinated bronze and the contrast of the unlovely white vinyl floor emphasizes the luxurious effect of the other materials used. The deep blue of the walls continues over the ceiling giving the impression of a cocoon and two doors allow viewers to walk straight through.

❛ I wanted to make a room which was sufficiently fantastic and sufficiently non-specific to enable visitors to make what they wanted of it. I wanted it to be surreal and claustrophobic, with lots of chairs so that people could sit down anywhere and relax. I chose blue because it is a very romantic colour and flattering to human flesh – it is also quite exotic and was used a lot in classical interiors.

I thought it would be fun to design for production but it wasn't. I wanted to design simple products – to find lights that look like lights is impossible – but having designed them, the price put on them by the manufacturers seems exhorbitant. It seemed very strange that one was expected to produce designs without any reference to the price they would sell at. If one had been a trained designer for industry surely one wouldn't have been kept in the dark. Why the white floor? Ah, that's to give the game away. It would have looked too much like a real room otherwise ❜

This room is cunningly placed between the unreal world of the artist's imagination and the comforting familiarity of Liberty's furniture department. The lavish use of fabric gives an opulence which has a physical effect – I saw the room first in an unheated warehouse. I returned, frozen, to this tent to get warm – a total illusion. The most domestic of the interiors, it emphasizes the particularly sad point that British manufacturers consider artists as incidental intellectuals rather than as commercial contributors, even when they are designing goods for batch production.

ANTHONY CARO

Anthony Caro is the only sculptor of the group, and he has an international reputation for huge abstract work involving steel girders and giant metal discs. His tower room in Japanese oak is based on one of his original bronzes. The angled turret is poised on a column reached by a twisting stairway built above an intricate network of supports. There is not a single plane that corresponds to the next – everything is a visual and physical surprise that invites further exploration. The cylindrical space which the sculpture encloses is amply big enough for a child – barely for an adult. Cones like telescopes emerge from the space like a ship's crow's nest.

❛ I was interested in the sculptural problems of what it is like to inhabit a space. What it feels like to sit down, stand, climb, walk. Children have a consciousness of the volume they are inhabiting and we lose it as we get older. So I tried to create all sorts of interesting spaces to go through, holes to look through, and I wanted it to be for adults. I wanted people to be able to sit there in the barrel and look throught the tubes, and I wanted the floor to slope and be hairy. I didn't want it to be comfortable. Sculpture is my language, but in order to make a sculpture about feeling I have to use space and material and form. If we became more aware of space we would get more enjoyment from buildings and from sculptures. With sculpture your eyes do the walking. Here your body does the feeling. ❜

Caro's tower is, literally, the most sensational of the four inventions. The feel of the structure is quite different from its appearance. He was limited by the height restriction, but it works for small adults as well as for children. As you climb into it the scale changes and you have to turn and twist, duck under arches, shrink through too-narrow spaces, stand safely on a platform one minute and suddenly feel unsafe when you step on to the unexpectedly sloping floor. If you accept the view put by Richard Hamilton that "the creation of a room of one's own is among the most revealing things we do", this experience of self-discovery is enough justification for the whole exhibition.

MARC CHAIMOWICZ

Marc Chaimowicz has produced the most paradoxical interior. Each component is functional, yet the whole is an intellectual exercise, a room to be contemplated rather than felt. The visitor observes from a corridor and looks into a cool, grey space bisected by a screen, with a desk which pivots into place for use and can by up-ended to become a sculpture. Behind it is a corner sideboard slightly derivative of the 1930s, in another corner a sloping chest with alternating inset and projecting drawers, and sofa bed with a sweeping overhead arm echoing the lines of the desk. A narrow panel of stained glass and back-lit pierced cross in one wall give a feeling of ecclesiastical calm, sharply contrasted with a giant screen showing slides of the people who might occupy such a room. It is presented like a museum room, to be considered, not enjoyed, with observers deliberately excluded from the room space. The lighting is cold and uninviting, further adding to the room's forbidding atmosphere.

❛ I have a great regard for the architectural profession at its best. Architects deal with reality in a way that artists don't - it's a question of function rather than symbols and metaphor. I have also been attracted more and more by the lost tradition of artists working commercially with manufacturers. There is something intriguing about the anonymity of presenting drawings to a textile manufacturer and then being surprised later to see them in 10 different colours. There are tangible benefits in the cooperation between artist and commerce. I don't have any pretensions about changing the world. I am just fascinated by the issues of who one works for, who is one's public and how does one price one's work. It's a sort of town and gown relationship. ❜

Of all the rooms this was the one that felt most like a painting. The fact that it was three dimensional was irrelevant. It would have given the same impression of cool solitude had it been presented in tempera, so it certainly worked as art. But it was also a brilliantly innovative piece of design. The desk in its tilted form has a false perspective so that you can look at it for a considerable time without being able to work out how it assumes a conventional posture. The most functional piece is the sloping chest of drawers which could fit any modern interior and to accommodate the other pieces you would need a mini Musée des Arts Modernes, but if you have one, the pieces are all beautifully made to order by Pearl Dot.



RICHARD HAMILTON

Richard Hamilton, one of the founders of pop art, has been involved in the interpretation of interiors since the This is Tomorrow exhibition of 1956. But what he describes as "the brash expectation of the fifties" has developed into a bleak view of today's negative society. His room is not domestic. It is an operating theatre with a stainless steel sink for the surgeon to wash his hands of us, and with the all-seeing, unseeing eye of Mrs Thatcher on the menacing close circuit screen surveying the bed. As you pass beyond the X-ray screen you are meant to sense the protected power of the operator separate and uninvolved.

❛ At first I thought of the project as a statement of non-style, rather than as a political statement. I have spent a lot of my time being involved with highly styled interiors and stylishly presented exhibitions which have been works of abstract art in themselves, so this time I wanted to make a room which had no decorative or aesthetic content. I actually expected it to be a little more off-putting than it has turned out. It has an impersonal quality but I actually like the look of it. I now find it rather beautiful. Having made a design to produce an ugly space it withered in trying to carry it through. But people who see the room would immediately identify it as mine, so it must have style after all. ❜

I doubt whether many Liberty disciples will know what to make of this one. It is an interior but it is not design, unless you consider all politics to be by design. It is certainly not commercial or reproductable or desirable. It is threatening and stark and unsympathetic and so is as valid a comment on a section of 1984 society as Orwell's prophecy was. If it makes visitors feel uncomfortable, it will have achieved its aim and so justified its inclusion, if only as a contrast to the decorative interpretations. But for me the aftertaste is inappropriate – as if your son's best man were not only making embarrassing jokes but canvassing votes.

Four Rooms is at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 until March 10 and then at the following art galleries: Wolverhampton, April 7 - May 13; Southampton, May 26 - July 8; Newport, July 21 - August 26; Aberdeen, September 8 - October 7 and Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, October 20 - November 18. The fabrics are in production by Warners, wallpapers by Coles, Marc Chaimowicz's furniture by Pearl Dot to order, and Howard Hodgkin's furniture and lamps by Aram.

The wrong climate for dates

however . . . Russell Davies

It has been apparent for some time, except to meteorologists, that the prevailing climatic conditions no longer match the calendar. In fact the whole system has slipped out of whack by a month. What we historically recognize to be December's weather arrives in January, January's in February and so on round the year.

Already the opening matches of recent cricket seasons, in late April, have succumbed to the new ruling. "Cold stopped play". The season for football, our "winter game", starts in what is effectively July. It could get worse. One need only think back as far as January 25, when by rights the entire country should have been enjoying a white Christmas. (December 25, you will recall, was recognizably part of the season of mists and suchlike, with leaves still falling off the trees and carol singers vainly pretending to shiver on your doorstep.) Something has to be done. As far as I can see, only two possibilities exist. One is that by public statute, a suitable month – August, for argument's sake – should be doubled in length, giving us all four weeks' extra holiday, a bonus Premium Bond draw, and a month's free subscription to *The Times*. By the end of Augmentagust, as it would be known for convenience, the seasonal slippage would have been corrected and September's conditions restored to their rightful place in our expectations.

However, serious difficulties attach themselves to this attractive plan. Chief among them is the problem of squaring the change with the EEC. Though it is highly likely that our Continental neighbours are experiencing the same wonky unseasonability as we are (witness the number of ski races these days that have to be held on artificial Soapislope surfaces), it is overwhelmingly improbable that the French, for one, would admit it: they like to appear to be in control of such things. Besides, while it is true that individuals and their families would enjoy Augmentagust just as much as the English, the French government would surely not be happy at the prospect of leaving Paris deserted for more than 60 days.

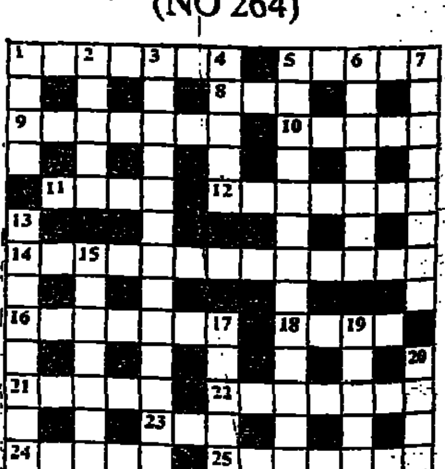
Britain could, of course, go it alone and declare unilateral Augmentagust, but the response from the French in such a case could be expected to be yet more obstructive, especially on the agricultural front. Faced with the fact that at any given moment it would be, say, September in England and October on the Continent, the French government could be relied upon to ban consignments of British lamb on the grounds that they had taken a month to get from Dover to Calais, and must therefore be unpalatable. While this objection would be easy to set aside (by pickling the offending imports in mint sauce), others of a similar kind would follow, as sure as eggs are (pending Euro-council ratification) *ocufs*.

All in all, the other solution might be less trouble in the long run – namely a frank admission by church, state, press and populace that Things Have Changed, and that our cherished festivals must simply be shifted by one month to new and more appropriate times. Is a Christmas on January 25 too awful to contemplate? Is there something inherently uninviting about phrases like "the February sales" or "the Ides of April"? I think not.

Sundry benefits, indeed, could accrue from this simple displacement of dates. Kurt Weill's "October Song" might find a whole new army of fans (if that is the expression) beyond the Iron Curtain. Devotees of the long-running musical *The Fantasticks* might not be so enthusiastic over the loss of "Try to remember the kind of September . . .", but I feel sure they would derive an even deeper satisfaction from "Try to keep sober at least till October . . .", once they had got, or gotten, used to it.

But there is no need to take things too far. Nobody in our lifetime is likely to be heard crooning "I'm as corny as Kansas in September, high as the flag on the Fourth of August". We in England just want to, as they say, regularize our own position. We can start by enlisting the support of television personalities like the lovely Feb Leeming. I think we can count on the backing of Conservative pressure groups like the Tuesday Club and the 1923 Committee. And with the support of *The Times* and its september readership, we will april forward to face the future, come what june.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 264)



ACROSS
1 Soft French loaf (7).
5 Peel off (5).
8 Flightless bird (3).
9 Pale beer (7).
10 Clear (3,2).
11 House entrance (4).
12 Wrap round (7).
14 Gossip purveyor (7,6).
16 Obliterates (7).
18 Broad belt (4).
21 Prohibited (5).
22 Function (7).
23 Spanish river (3).
24 Run down (5).
25 Own (7).

DOWN
1 Pop dances (4).
2 Ice houses (5).
3 Incompatible (13).
4 Spooky (5).
5 Great lavishness (13).
6 Tearing (7).
7 Marionette art (8).
13 Fire resistant mineral (8).
15 Genial (7).
17 Pry (5).
19 Disgrace (5).
20 Not as much (4).

SOLUTION TO No 263
ACROSS: 1 Dubbed 5 Sugary 8 Ilk 9 Abacus 10 Insect 11 Anna 12 Ex libris 14 Blue stockings 17 Guernsey 19 Axle 21 Edible 23 Trivet 24 Pea 25 Priest 26 Larynx
DOWN: 2 Urban 3 Buccaneer 4 Dissent 5 Skill 6 Gas 7 Rocking 13 Brigadier 15 Launder 16 Crystal 18 Swept 20 Lie in 22 Bee

FRIDAY PAGE

Audrey Slaughter reports on the latest lucrative business scheme – running homes for the elderly

Cashing in on the granny boom

Grannies are big business. In fact, growing old is one of the few growth areas in the economy. There are more grannies, and grandfathers (though thanks to *female longevity* there are fewer of them) today than ever before, but there are fewer people to look after them. Smaller families (so there are fewer children to take care of elderly relatives), smaller houses (so there is less room to swing a granny), and career-minded daughters (who find it even *more difficult to obtain* an au pair for their ageing mothers than for their toddlers) have cut the number of carers in the family, but better health has meant the elderly live on – and on.

Small-scale entrepreneurs used to find holiday homes, caravan sites and launderettes a good, trouble-free, lucrative outlet for their capital: very little managerial skills or attention needed, no special qualifications. Today, with an eye on Britain's *ageing population*, they find to their surprise and delight that a private old people's home is highly profitable and, thanks to some extremely lax regulations, almost anyone can slap a bit of paint on a redundant motel and open a "Twilight Home", as they are dubbed in the US. Provided fire regulations are observed, the overworked local authority is not strict about registering a home – it has not the staff or the budget to carry out systematic inspections. One matron of a Bedfordshire home calmly shipped out her surplus residents when the local social services *inspector was expected, dumping* them with a variety of ex-employees until the danger of being charged with overcrowding was over. Naturally this varies from authority to authority, but on the whole the *social services department, faced* with taking infirm and confused old people into homes in the public sector, is only too happy to have the pressure eased by a private entrepreneur.

"I made up my mind never to be a burden to anyone," said my 92-year-old spinster aunt and, with the same firmness *and organizational* skill she had used in running her village church, county council and front-line hospital in two world wars, checked out the *options and* installed herself in a private residential home for old people. She was tired of the problems of running her own too-large home and garden and was firm in her resolve not to live with me.

Unfortunately, the brochures describing old people's homes are about as accurate as an estate agent's. Having settled on one within visiting distance of her friends, my aunt was shown around by a gracious woman wearing a sympa thetic smile and an artful if unearned white medical coat. She readily agreed that my aunt could bring her own bed and favourite armchair. The chairlift sliding up the long flight of stairs, the sun lounge and the television room were prominantly featured. Mention was made of *night* staff. Satisfied with the facilities my aunt (paradoxically shocked by the wages/colour television/use of car demanded by *housekeepers) calmly agreed to pay* almost £200 a week for a room and bathroom. The room is largely furnished with her own things, something which she finds a comfort – and so does the proprietor, whose *capital outlay is thus reduced.*

That was the last my aunt saw of the gracious lady, except for one brief moment when she bustled in without knocking to show my aunt's room to new prospectives. In the two years she has been there she has changed from an autocratic old dear with a keen intelligence and sharp sense of humour, to a tired and defeated old lady waiting for death. "Please God I won't be here next spring, next Christmas, next *month,*" she says *with distressing* frequency, huddled in a chair, smothered in rugs and clutching a hot water bottle.

The home's brochure talks about a family atmosphere. The family must be a very strange one. The home is staffed by a series of part-time village women who are kindly enough, but preoccupied with their own families and anxious to get back to them. There's no time to stop and chat and cheer. Meal times and help with baths are *efficient, but perfunctory.* The food is abysmal – tough stews, badly cooked vegetables and invariably a commercial ice cream which may be kind to dentures, but is short on nutrition and imagination.

Visitors are discouraged from coming at tea-time because of the strain on the domestic staff (a euphemism for the part-timers) who are apparently overwhelmed by the task of providing thick cups of even *thicker* brownish *fluid and* a dry biscuit or two. When we visit, we take a picnic of a decent grade of tea in the fine china cups my aunt misses so much. In fact, it is the utilitarian slop of the china and cutlery which most of the inhabitants feel so keenly. The "24-hour medical staffing" claimed in the brochure is, in reality, a 70-year-old retired nurse dozing in the kitchen, but willing to bring a comforting cup of tea in the middle of the night if *required – one of the few thoughtful* touches for old people who nap a lot during the day and sleep fitfully as a result.

My aunt has had three falls since she has been there. The first time was during the night, when she tripped on a dangerous bedside rug on her way to the bathroom and, out of reach of her bell, lay there helpless and cold until breakfast was served at 8am. The second time she fell from her high, old-fashioned bed *during an afternoon nap* and fractured her pelvis. She was unceremoniously bundled off to a hospital alone.

But she is lucky. She could have been born without a private income and in that era when companies did not provide pension schemes – like Nellie, featured in one of the excellent BBC *Brass Tacks* documentaries last October called "Tender, loving neglect". Nellie, arthritic, infirm, lived alone on an impersonal council estate *sometimes* forgetting to eat, often finding the effort of fitting a plug into a kettle to make herself a cup of tea too much for her. Watching the film of her palsied hands endeavouring to pour boiling water into a teapot, one almost wished she wouldn't try. Nellie desperately wished for a place in a home. "I must be able to be some help on my good days," she offered, but she had to come to terms with the fact that there were 38 people *ahead of her in a queue for one place* in the local authority home.

In the same film, former ballerina Lady Maria Holly and her *companion had taken themselves off to a* private home, like my aunt. "Why did you give up your independence?" reporter Tony Wilson asked. "I don't know what to say about independence really," Lady Holly said matter-of-factly, "because when you're old, you're not independent." Certainly my aunt, for all her *comparative wealth, is not independent.* "Don't complain," she begged of me when I was indignant about the lack of interest from the proprietor and the indifferent efforts of the cook. "They'll only ask me to go if I'm a nuisance. At least if you're dying here they don't turn you out. Some places do. As soon as your *ill they pack you off to hospital.* Here, I can die in my own bed."

It is obvious that with our aging population, the problem of care is *going to become even more acute.* For reasonably active pensioners there's a lot to be said for the small, purpose-built flats and bungalows looked after by a warden.

But there is still the problem that if you become really infirm and need nursing, there are few facilities in such an arrangement to stay. The prospect of *dying in alien,* impersonal surroundings terrifies many old people, even if they've come to terms with death itself. Swingeing *cuts in health services* and a shortage of local authority funds means that the situation is not going to get better in the public sector, which is why the private sector is booming and speculative eyes from across the Atlantic are brooding over expansion plans here.

Meanwhile, beady-eyed businessmen are moving in to clean up, cynically aware that they're more than a match for a hard-pressed social services department inspector *assessing their fitness to be registered* as a twilight home.



Choo...

When choosing a residential home, look for brightness and bustle. Graveyard gloom, with just some old person shuffling behind their zimmer frame, means staff are few or *indifferent.*

Safety – beware of loose rugs, unexpected steps to garden or bathroom, awkward stairs, old wiring. Age Concern has researched this.

Visit the public rooms. Rows of senile old people staring into space and mumbling has a depressing effect. Chairs should be in informal groups with tables for books, cards or knitting.

Is there contact with the local community? *With small* encouragement local drama groups, choirs, or youth clubs will bring plays and concerts to the home.

Talk – alone – to existing residents. A refusal to let you would be highly suspicious.

If the district is new to you, the local newspaper may have carried stories *about the home. Ask if you can see* their cuttings library.

May the prospective resident take possessions with them like pictures, a chair? Are there flowers about? Fish tanks for interest? A garden to wander in ? Are visitors allowed to drop in at any reasonable time?

Quiz the proprietor. Do they live on the premises, are they qualified? One proprietor, three times a bankrupt, had merely run a small shop and a filling station and had no *qualified help at all. At the other end* of the scale, like St Audrey's at Coll Hill, Dorset, the proprietor is a qualified nurse, his wife an excellent cook and they are backed up with kindly, trained help. There *are* good homes such as these around, but one needs to do careful homework to find them.



Suresh Karadia

On the beat: William Ellis at Parsons House, Paddington, where 96 out of the 120 flats in the block have joined the neighbourhood scheme

How a watching brief can beat the burglars

One evening recently, 200 west London *residents resisted* the temptations of *Dallas*, and went out in the rain to meet their local policemen. In a Boys' Brigade hall officers were waiting, tea, coffee and biscuits at the ready, to put forward a proposition of mutual interest.

The keynote of the evening was struck by a superintendent who described the story of a harassed American police captain in a Hollywood thriller who told his critics that he could solve crime if *only he could put a man on every* street corner. Such a hope could no more be achieved in the reality of London than it could in a celluloid fiction.

But it was possible, said the superintendent, to have the next best thing: a local population which was alert to the risk of crime, *advertising its awareness and there*fore deterring the vandal, the burglar and the car thief. Was it time central Fulham had a neighbourhood watch?

At the end of the meeting 104 people apparently thought it was. The special research unit at Fulham police station calculated that they had volunteers in 39 out of 43 streets for beat number six, running north of the New King's Road among expensive terraced houses and flats.

Since the neighbourhood watch scheme was launched last September more than 69 watches have been formed in London and more than 223 others are under discussion. The scheme is based on an American idea – Scotland Yard officers drew up their plans on a Seattle blueprint – and the aim is to organize *residents in small areas, street by* street.

Each street has a coordinator who acts as liaison with the local beat constable. Members of the watch keep an eye on each other's property and report to police anything suspicious. The police supply materials for a property marking system based on post codes. Owners can stamp or write their codes on items of value to help police identify them.

The Yard hopes Fulham will prove a *showcase* for *how the* scheme can work. The largest watch in London is operating in 43 streets round Hurlingham on Fulham's beat seven after an inaugural meeting of 450 people.

Members of the watch receive a newsletter noting crime trends in the area, suspicious characters and ways of *taking precautions. What was a* bad area for burglary in the Fulham division saw a reduction of more than 50 per cent in break-ins in the first few months of the watch.

Such interest is perhaps not surprising in an area of expensive houses where middle-class owners feel they have a great deal to lose. Yet when police in the Paddington area canvassed an expensive area of Maida Vale before Christmas by sending out letters with returnable *forms, they received 24 replies* from 240 letters.

Many officers believe the watches will be much more difficult to set up in the areas where they are most needed such as the vast, often down-at-heel council estates.

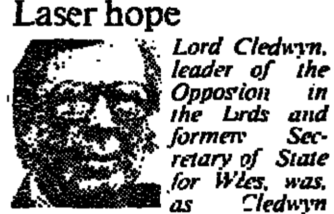
But the residents of Parsons House, a 20-storey block overlooking *Edgware* Road, went *to their* local station last October and asked for a watch to be set up. It should be said the inspiration was a tenant who works for the police, but none the less 96 out of the 120 flats in the block joined the watch.

The residents, a fifth of whom are old age pensioners, say the immediate effect of the watch is a reduction in the amount of vandalism.

The block, with some 400 residents, is in the centre of a much *larger estate,* but to date no one *in* the rest of the area has shown interest in widening the scheme. Perhaps the situation will change as Parsons House *erects an official sign* announcing it has a watch operating.

Stewart Tendler

Laser hope



Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Opposition in the Lords and former Secretary of State for Wales, was, as Cledwyn Hughes, MP for Anglesey for 28 years. But though he has had a lifetime in politics, perhaps the most testing trials of his life were not on the hustings but as a schoolboy, when he had to learn to ignore the heartless curiosity excited by a haemangioma, a portwine birthmark, on his face.

Lord Cledwyn's friendly gregarious nature stood him in as good stead on the playground as in Parliament, and he triumphed: but many less-determined children suffer misery and lasting psychological damage. Recent research work in argon laser therapy by John Carruth at Southampton offers these children a hope of a less complicated childhood.

In 1977 Mr Carruth, a surgeon, went to the US to study the use of a carbon-dioxide laser used in the treatment of diseases of the head and neck. Later his work in this field came to the attention of the distraught parents of a child with a facial haemangioma. Mr Carruth explained that an argon laser used experimentally in the US for dermatology was quite different to a carbon dioxide laser but, interested by the challenge presented by the child's case, he returned there to learn about argon lasers.

Not all patients do equally well: the best cosmetic effect is achieved on people with very light skin and treatment is impossible for the very dark-skinned. There is also a conventional belief that treatment should be postponed until the late teens but Mr Carruth is working to define the earliest age at which treatment can start. He is treating children as young as four, five and six and is getting good results.

Before any widespread treatment is attempted a test patch about the size of a fingernail is treated and then watched for six months. If scarring, which can be more difficult to hide than a birthmark, is to be avoided, the minimal power necessary for blanching must be used. All treatment has to be very slow and careful: it may well take years.

Laser therapy badly adminis-

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Blood test for undergraduates

Prince Edward's attack of infectious mononuc leosis fortuitously coincided with detailed accounts of the disease in *Update*, the postgraduate magazine, and in *The Lancet*; so that patients' searching questions were answered with authority. Purists insist that although most laymen refer to infections mononucleosis as glandular fever there is a difference between them.

Glandular fever was first described in 1889 as a disease of young children; it probably represents a syndrome with a variety of causes. Infectious mononucleosis was identified in 1920 but not until 1968 was it realized that it was one of the many diseases caused by the Epstein Barr virus first isolated four years earlier.

The majority of Prince Edward's fellow undergraduates would have been infected before they got to Cambridge. A *study* has shown that 57 per cent of students have antibodies to the virus by the time they start their university career; only a very small proportion of them will *have noticed* any signs or symptoms. Diagnosis is confirmed by blood tests including the finding of antibodies to the *Epstein Barr virus.*

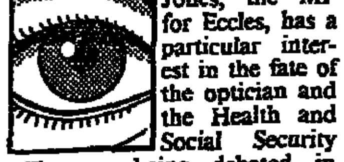
Infectious mononucleosis is traditionally supposed to appear in three different ways: the angiose type, when a severe sore throat is the main trouble; glandular type, when enlarged painful lymph glands and spleen predominate, and the febrile type, when *the patient* has a recurrent temperature. In practice most cases are a mixture of all these types. Another common sign is a rash, made worse if ampicillin has been used to treat the sore throat. Most patients recover from the acute symptoms within three weeks.

Infective mononucleosis, like any other viral infection, can cause post-viral depression. In most cases some degree of *tiredness and lassitude after the* illness is to be expected. Rare complications include jaundice, myocarditis, anaemia, bruising, even meningitis.



Prince Edward: other students will have the virus

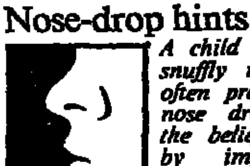
Test of policy



Mr Lewis Carter Jones, the MP for Eccles, has a particular interest in the fate of the optician and the Health and Social Security Bill now being debated in standing committee. A short while ago a regular visit to his opticians showed *that* the pressure in his eyes was raised. He was referred to St Thomas's Hospital, which is now moni- dispensing of spectacles has arisen because it is feared that they will discourage routine regular eye-testing, which is important if glaucoma and other diseases are to be detected before irreversible damage has been done.

Glaucoma is the medical term for an increase in pressure in the eye. In 90 per cent of cases of chronic open-angle glaucoma, the underlying cause is unknown. Although it can occur in any age group, 2 per cent of the population are affected by the age of 40, but the occular pressure in chronic glaucoma sometimes causes mild headaches and vague visual problems, often wrongly ascribed to tension, tiredness or strain, but it can occur without any symptoms other than a progressive loss of peripheral vision. Very marked loss of sight often occurs before the patient notices that anything is amiss, a fact which constantly amazes doctors and opticians. Acute glaucoma causes severe pain and visual changes.

Nose-drop hints



A child with a snuffly nose is often prescribed nose drops in the belief that, by improving drainage, they help treat the common complications of sinusitis and earache. Mr Robert Pracy, formerly of Great Ormond Street Hospital, has written on the difficulty of administering these drops.

In theory the child should lie on his or her back with the head hanging vertically over the edge of a bed. A measured number of drops, warmed to blood heat, should be put into each nostril and the child should then stay in this position for two minutes while absorption takes place.

Orange Caution



Doctors are adept at spotting the orange glow to the skin of the patient who has sought a tan not from the beach or ski slopes, but from tablets rich in *caroteroid, the pigments found* in oranges and carrots. However healthy the face may look, the diagnosis can be confirmed by looking at the palms, stained a less-than-alluring carrot colour.

Despite this previous experience a *recent epidemic, reported* in *Medical News*, of an outbreak of orange hands and feet among north London schoolchildren defied diagnosis and so was brought to the attention of the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre. Fortunately, it was found that they were not suffering from any viral disease but from an excessive intake of orange citrus fruit, particularly Spanish satsumas.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



THE TIMES DIARY

Primrose path

Lady Olga Maitland, that effervescent defence campaigner, will use the Young Conservatives' annual conference in Blackpool this weekend as a launch-pad for a new magazine called, originally enough, *The Defence Campaigner*. Lady Olga, power behind the supposedly non-party Women and Families for Defence – set up last March to counter CND – tells me that the new quarterly (5,000 copies at 30p each) will plead for people to come forward with tales of "peace studies" being infiltrated into school lessons. "Parents are very intimidated, and daren't complain about what their children are taught, and that's usually unilateralism, from left-wing teachers," she said. "In my day at school, we hardly knew what politics were."

Times change. The editor of *The Defence Campaigner* is a 16-year-old schoolgirl who certainly knows what politics are. Janet Parrett is not only studying politics and world history, economics and government at A-level, but she is also chairman of Eltham Young Conservatives.

The sting

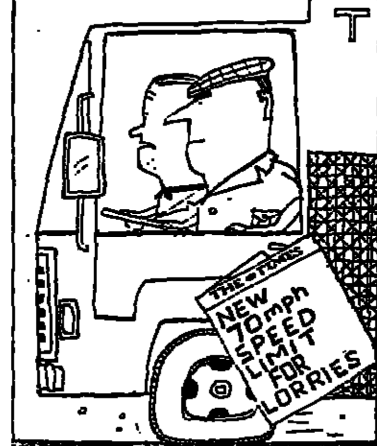
As if there was not already teeth-gnashing among the publishers who passed up the opportunity to seize what looks like being the novel of the season, *The Wasp Factory* (even now going into reprint before publication next week), the BBC has unwittingly added insult to injury. Featuring the first-time author, Iain Banks, on its cerebral *Bookmark* programme, the Beeb needed a First World War bunker in which to film a dramatized extract from the novel, but since none was available settled instead for the cellar of a house in Tooting Bec – owned by the publicity director of a rival publisher.

● **The *Kentish Gazette* carried a job-seeking classified advertisement from an "ex-patriot" managing director. Perhaps the KGB could employ him.**

Blunderland

Queen Victoria as the author of *Alice in Wonderland*? What nonsense! David Rosenbaum and the Continental Historical Society of San Francisco are way off beam when they suggest in their book *Queen Victoria's Alice* that the real Lewis Carroll was Her Majesty rather than Charles Dodgson. Dodgson denied authorship because of the 1880 scandal arising from his hobby of photographing little girls in what he called "their favourite dress of nothing to wear". It is even possible that he was the victim of a blackmail attempt based on his special interest. Indeed a new "faction" novel by Donald Thomas, *Belladonna: A Lewis Carroll Nightmare*, published next month, suggests that Dodgson could have been involved with Charles Augustus Howell, the notorious blackmailer immortalized as Milverton in a Sherlock Holmes story.

BARRY FANTONI



'I can't get used to not slowing down when I see the police'

Assisted passage

In another chapter of the *Spectator* saga, Alexander Chancellor told his readers yesterday that he is "less than happy" about his departure after nine years in the editor's chair, though he is delighted with the choice of his successor, Charles Moore. Mr Chancellor writes: "I am looking forward to some fresh air. It's quite hard to be out of a job, and sometimes it's difficult to leave a place. You need a helping hand." It's good to know that Algy Cluff, the proprietor, is so obliging.

Voting early

As Vice-President George Bush arrives in London this weekend, his political opponents are limbering up for an early round of the seemingly interminable US election campaign. The Democrats Abroad organization is sending out tomorrow the first ballot papers for the overseas primary vote in which American expatriates can choose their Democratic presidential candidate, and their 10 delegates to the party convention in July. This year's overseas vote, to be declared on March 13, is particularly important to the Democratic front-runners, Walter Mondale, John Glenn and Jesse Jackson, because it will be one of the first tests of opinion, following the Iowa caucuses and the first primary in New Hampshire. Futhermore, the overseas delegates will be last to vote at the convention, so they could be crucial to the wheeling and dealing that goes on. The 80,000 or so Americans in Britain, all of whom naturally read this column, may obtain ballot papers from Democrats Abroad, 78 Redcliffe Square, London SW10.

PHS

Jenkin's Green Belt U-turn

Private house builders seldom win popularity polls. Architects despise their little boxes (and their under-employment of architects). Defenders of green fields blame them for despoiling England's pleasant land. No owners of a des. res. want a Wimpey house on the corner or Barratt building over the waste ground where they take their dogs for a walk.

On occasion the builders deserve the criticism, but now – after yesterday's government pronouncement on the Green Belt – they have a case. Their complaint is this. On one side of Whitehall they are praised by Treasury ministers as an engine of growth, intensive employers of labour, heavy users of domestically-produced materials. Employment ministers urge people to move to jobs, and presumably intend them to live in houses in employment areas. Housing ministers say council house building is a residual sector; that housing policy is now carried on the backs of the private sector. Fine, says the House Builders Federation, only too happy to be seen to combine the public interest with profit. But what about the Environment Secretary, who doubles as the minister for town and country planning?

When Mrs Thatcher appointed Patrick Jenkin to head the department last year, the time seemed right to nudge the pendulum which has swung unevenly between development and control ever since the planning system was put in place in 1947. (Whatever Mr Jenkin's predecessor, Mr Michael Heseltine, may have said, there had since 1979 been no bonfire of planning controls.)

Mr Jenkin issued two circulars in rapid succession, guidance on what councils should do and indications of how he would jump if he were to adjudicate on councils' refusal to permit housing development. To the builders it seemed as if overall government policy was becoming consistent; that a new era of relative liberality was beginning. No one was proposing putting two-bedroom apartments on beauty spots such as Box Hill. But Jenkin was hinting that if councils were too tight with land and private housing on the edges of Green Belt territory, he would back the builders. In other words, if the (usually Conservative) councillors of Epsom or Hitchin or High Wycombe insisted on drawing the Green Belt's boundary right up to the front door of Boots in the High Street, the government would slacken it off.

Not for the first time, Jenkin showed a lack of political acumen in the way the circulars were presented. Luck went against him, too, because at about the same time the suburban squirearchy had been alarmed by a builders' proposal to plant new commuter villages in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and the other counties around London.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England entered the fray in alliance with the shire counties. Jenkin, besieged by his own backbenchers, conceded; the circulars were withdrawn.

Yesterday they reappeared, sanitized, cleansed of offending passages and resolutely green. They still suggest, albeit in a rather vague way, that builders deserve a little generosity. But now they earn the CPRE's plaudits for fixing the Green Belt's boundaries and endorsing the apparatus of control in existing "structure" (county) and local plans.

The builders cannot be blamed for feeling they are back at square one, with government policy exhibiting a gross inconsistency. Whitehall wants the houses but is not prepared to will the land supply; ministers appear to have set their faces against those who will want to buy or move house in the South-east but do not already have the good fortune to live in Chorleywood or Tunbridge Wells.

Calculations of land supply and housing demand are too fragile for the builders' case to be accepted in its entirety. Land for building has been allocated in the suburban counties; what remains of the "regional strategy" for the South-east claims there is plenty of scope in designated growth areas such as Milton Keynes or Wokingham. But what of the principles of free choice and market economics which ought to put a premium on people making up their own mind about where to live and in what kind of home?

The builders' case is strengthened because of what neither of these two circulars dare mention: London. Even assuming that it is acceptable to keep migrants from less-favoured areas out of the South-east, tightening the Green Belt will not stop Londoners escaping outwards. It will add to pressures on available land and ultimately on house prices in the rest of the South-east.

If you are a self-regarding resident of Herts (especially if you are the county planner or a local politician) the one thing you devoutly wish is long life and prosperity for the GLC. For without its "strategic" view and lots of public money, most of the implicit assumptions in the government's plans do not stand up.

The circular on Green Belts, as amended, makes pious reference to refurbishing the inner cities, so increasing the supply and attractiveness of housing within the metropolitan areas and easing pressures on the periphery. Fine as a principle: but refurbishment is very expensive and there will still be many people who don't fancy living on Beckton marshes or joining those intrepid colonizers of the Isle of Dogs.

The builders' case against the tightness of planning policy in the Home Counties will be strengthened unless there is substantially more public money for city housing, home improvements, infrastructure and site development. Alternatively there could be a fiscal revolution, for example abolishing mortgage tax relief, a measure which could have a remarkable effect on the supply of housing and reduce the need for new building. Given Mrs Thatcher's predilections, that is unlikely.

What remains for the next few years (demography may come to the rescue in the 1990s) is a recipe for builders'unhappiness, house-buyers' frustration and oddly for a government that once talked about rolling back the boundaries of the state, an enhanced role for town and county hall planning bureaucrats.

David Walker

An Iranian dream turned sour

After five years of religious-inspired terror and executions, Hazhir Teimourian reports on everyday life in a country where chess is taboo and a tube of toothpaste costs £4

An English woman who recently spent a month in Tehran reported a strange sensation when she returned home: she found the colourful make-up and clothes of fellow westerners shockingly garish. She had become curiously accustomed to the austerity of prescribed dress in Iran, where women are encouraged to wear the all-enveloping black *chador* (literally, a tent) outside the home, and where the slightest trace of make-up entails the risk of many months in jail.

When, five years ago tomorrow, millions of Iranians poured on to the streets of Tehran to welcome Ayatollah Khomeini on his return from exile in France, they knew that their new alliance with the clergy meant at least a change of style: out would go the open adoration of the values of a consumer society, and in would come, for example, a greater emphasis on personal modesty. It was not foreseen by the majority that the clergy would soon develop a liking for power, and that their state would have to be recreated along lines decreed in the Koran by Allah. After all, the Ayatollah did promise that he would go back to his theological school in Qom and leave the running of the government to elected politicians in the capital.

Today, by all accounts, the great majority of Iranians are sorely disillusioned with their new circumstances, but the militant clergy have established tight control over most of the country and, short of another revolution, will continue their march towards their ideal of an Islamic state.

However, life under the mullahs is not merely the austere existence advocated by the men of religion with an eye on the greater luxuries of the other world. A five-year war with the Kurds in the western mountains of Kurdistan and the much more ruinous conflict with Iraq over the past three years have brought in their wake many extra hardships that even the clergy do not welcome. One can become accustomed to the total banning of music on the radio, but having to queue many hours each day for bread and tea – without a guarantee of avoiding disappointment at the end – is quite a different matter.

Looking into the future, the government faces a number of seemingly insurmountable problems: the fast-rising population (of 40 million people) has a far longer life expectation than its forebears, the war with Iraq has reached a stalemate, and no clergyman who could become a creditable successor to 85-year-old Ayatollah Khomeini is within sight.



February 1979: Women in Tehran pay homage to their returned Ayatollah. The mood today is of disenchantment and depression

If there is any sign of a benefit on the horizon of Islamic Iran, it is in the strengthening of family bonds. Entertainment outside the home has been severely curtailed. Theatres and cinemas have been closed, or made to concentrate on humourless revolutionary films from countries such as North Korea. As a result, more people choose to visit friends and relatives, but even here the possibilities are limited. Alcohol is not available to lighten the mood, and Revolutionary Guards have sometimes invaded houses in search of playing cards, chess pieces and backgammon boards.

No formal laws have been passed to ban the playing of chess or the painting of landscapes, but such laws are not necessary. Every clergyman is supposed to be a qualified interpreter of the will of God in his locality, and his armed guards carry out his wishes obediently, transforming him into the undisputed king of the area. Such possessions as taped music or the poetry of Omar Khayyam are regarded as circumstantial evidence proving moral perversion and counter-revolutionary tendencies.

One favourite pastime has become the reading of books of history – especially ancient history – as these are not regarded by the authorities as dangerous influences. The importation of radio sets with short-wave reception is banned, though many a household still possesses them and secretly listens to foreign stations. The local media are under the complete control of the clergy, but even here it is possible to find suprises that seem to have escaped the attention of the censor. Recently, a leading magazine sent a number of reporters on to the streets of Tehran to interview people on their views on the war with Iraq and on the general situation. Of 27 answers that were published, only two supported the government.

Shortages of food and basic requirements provide one of the main causes of dissatisfaction. Tea costs the equivalent of £15 a pound on the black market, and a tube of toothpaste £4.25, if it could be found at all. In addition, there are regular and prolonged power cuts all over the country, and in some regions heating oil has been unobtainable during the present, bitterly cold winter.

Perhaps the most important side-effect of the revolution has been the blow it has dealt the self-esteem of the nation. A lorry driver who supported Khomeini now says: "I wish someone would pour petrol over us and set it alight. We are good for nothing". A more sanguine view was expressed to me by an industrialist who is thinking of emigrating: "We are all depressed. There are many suicides, especially among the young. The closure of the universities over the past three years has been a body blow to their hopes. The least educated element among us has taken over the reins, and that is that. The same thing happened in Germany before the Second World War."

Index-linking: no longer what it was but it still figures

Unions preparing for this spring's big public sector pay negotiations are bracing themselves for a new government assault on one of their most treasured benefits – the index-linked pension. This will not be outright abolition, much as many Tories and private sector workers might desire it. Scrapping index-linking altogether is no longer a runner, politically.

The Cabinet has decided in principle, however, to make millions of public sector workers pay a more "realistic" price for the privilege of their inflation-proofed retirement benefits. Those most immediately affected are two and a half million teachers, local government and health service workers who face significant increases in their weekly pension contributions. No details about the timing or size of the increases have yet been disclosed, but the Treasury is believed to want to see the average contribution rate rise from between 5 and 6 per cent to 8 per cent, with further increases later.

The unions are worried that the Government will use the contribution increases as a lever to keep the public sector pay-round under control.

For the Government, there are wider motives. Mrs Thatcher has never made any secret of her desire to "do something" about index-linking, which has long been a target of Conservative policy-makers and – during the highly inflationary 1970s at least – a source of considerable popular resentment as well. One of Mrs Thatcher's first tasks after the 1979 election was to set up an inquiry under Sir Bernard Scott to investigate how much index-linking was really worth to public sector employees.

Any hopes the Government may have nurtured that it would be handed a convenient charter for scrapping index-linking were dashed when the Scott team produced its report three years ago. While acknowledging the "considerable advantages" which an inflation-proofed pension conferred on public sector workers, the report concluded that protecting pensions was a "highly desirable social objective" which, far from being scrapped, should – by implication at least – be extended to the private sector.

The report also emphasized the fact, sometimes forgotten by critics of index-linking, that public employees already pay higher contribution rates than workers in private industry. The average contribution rate in the private sector, according to the latest surveys, is 4.31 per cent of employees' pay, compared with rates in the public sector that range from 5 per cent for manual workers in the health service and local government to 11 per cent for policemen.

Raising contribution rates is another approach to the problem. The police were the first public sector group to feel the impact, with an increase in rates of between 3 and 4 per cent in 1982. Then, last year, the firemen's contribution rate was raised by 4 per cent in two stages, though not before the proposals had brought the firemen's union to the brink of a national strike.

Now the spotlight has shifted to the main public sector groups. The Government's intention appears to be to bring contribution rates in the NHS, local government and education service into line with the 8 per cent effectively paid by civil servants. Earlier plans to raise the civil servants' contribution rate itself appear to have been postponed for the time being. There are likely to be further increases in contribution rates in later years.

These moves stand to save the Government a lot of money. Since the early 1970s, when index-linking became standard practice in the public sector, the gross cost of paying the pension benefits of public sector workers has soared. For the main groups alone – teachers, civil servants, health and local government workers – retirement benefits paid out have jumped from £314m in 1970-71 to £3,300m in 1982-3. The total public sector pension bill is running at more than £4,400m, roughly 3 per cent of total government spending.

That is the gross cost to the state. The net cost, after allowing for employee contributions of £1,200m, and the £600m of pay that civil servants and police forgo in lieu of pension contributions, is still more than £2,000m. Raising the employee contribution rates for the three groups now threatened will save the Treasury an estimated £370m a year.

The Treasury has to pick up much of the bill for retirement benefits because most public sector pension schemes are purely notional. There is no actual fund of employee and employer contributions to be invested and managed, as there is in the private sector, and pensions are paid out of the government's revenue budget.

Ironically, the Government's new drive for higher contributions is taking place at a time when inflation has fallen to a level – about 5 per cent – at which index-linking is no longer of such obvious advantage to public sector employees. Whereas fewer than 2 per cent of private sector pension schemes guarantee to index-link their pension benefits, more than a quarter guarantee to increase benefits each year by between 3 and 4 per cent. Many others use their discretion to top up the value of benefits each year.

When inflation was running at more than 20 per cent, this meant that only the richest oil companies and banks could effectively give their pensioners anything like protection against inflation. Now it is something that many more schemes can afford to do, particularly as the present boom in world stock markets is giving pension funds some healthy investment profits.

But an index-linked pension is still worth significantly more than an unprotected pension. In what is seen as an important prelude to its planned flotation on the stock market next year, British Airways is proposing to buy out its workers' rights to an index-linked pension at a potential cost of up to £200m. The Government and the airline's City advisers have made it clear that a company burdened with the potentially unlimited cost of an index-linked scheme will be much less attractive to investors than one with a conventional scheme.

David Felton and Jonathan Davis

Index-linked public-service pensions

	Members of pension schemes (thousands)	Total expenditure on benefits £ million	Employee contribution £ million	Average weekly pension £
Civil Service	657	1,057	360*	35.80
Local gov'ment	1,060	740	400	32.70
Teachers	613	925	335	61.90
NHS	820	622	350	35.40
Police	133	231	100	50.80
Fire	39	58	20	39.80
Armed forces	321	663	260*	38.30
Total	3,643	4,296	1,825	

*Deductions from pay

Source: Treasury 1982/3 estimates

David Watt

South Africa: a shift or a sham?

I have been visiting South Africa for the first time in four years and found two starkly different views among South Africans about what is happening in their sad and divinely beautiful country.

White conservatives and businessmen assure one that everything, at last, is beginning to change. It is said that the Prime Minister, P. W. Botha, has seen the light and is now preparing to follow the logic of South Africa's predicament. The country cannot prosper economically in the new international climate without a far larger pool of skilled workers and middle management. Since the base provided by the white population is manifestly inadequate for this purpose, it must be supplemented by the coloured, Indian and, ultimately, the black population. Educational and economic advancement will inevitably entail political advancement in the long run, whether the Afrikaner diehards like it or not, and it it this nettle that Botha is now supposed to be ready to grasp.

The new constitution, with its separate houses of parliament and ministries for the white, Indian and coloured communities is, on this interpretation, the first tentative shot at breaking the mould – and English-speaking whites, as well as Afrikaners, voted for it in droves. Botha's success in the (white) referendum on the new arrangements last year, combined with visible strengthening of South Africa's security on her northern borders in the last 12 months, has given Mr Botha the confidence to drag his party into the twentieth century, and we shall soon witness all sorts of other evidence of progress, *involving black Africans* as well as the other races.

Liberals have a very different perspective on all this. They believe that the Afrikaners cannot possibly accept the prospect of losing real control of the development of South Africa and that it is therefore futile to think that they seriously envisage any genuine sharing of power. The new constitution is regarded by liberals as evidence of this. It offers nothing substantial to coloureds or Indians, who can always be over-ruled in the white chamber, and it offers less than nothing to blacks, whose representation outside their "homelands" is confined to town council level. In other words it is a complete sham.

Other recent pieces of evidence can be produced to support the general indictment. The black education system, which ought in theory to be the centrepiece of any attempt to improve economic performance, is in dreadfully bad shape and gets no better in spite of government reassurances. Petty apartheid regulations are less in evidence than they were – more blacks in bars and lounges of the big hotels: no "whites only" notices on park benches; a less onerous censorship. But the central core of apartheid remains untouched: the laws which forbid blacks to live in white areas, or indeed anywhere outside their "homelands", without a pass. Far from being relaxed, these are now to be enforced with greater rigour.

The urban black who has, as it were, got in under the wire may find his lot marginally improved, but all the rest, including the million or more who are living in the townships illegally, are to be hemmed back into the rural poverty traps in the Bantustans. According to the liberal version, the vistas of constitutional change now being opened up do not begin to touch these realities; for which reason internal violence and ultimately civil war continue to make their slow, but inexorable approach.

There is no way, at present, of deciding for certain which of these two scenarios is correct. The government has not yet had time to show its new hand, if it has one. It has not even put the new constitution into effect. And yet it seems to me, after two weeks in South Africa, that some provisional conclusions spring to mind.

First, it is obvious that the great southern African "bloodbath" has been drastically postponed by the turn of events in the last year or two. Externally, the relative strength of South Africa's economy, and her well-proved ability to destabilize her neighbours at will, has cowed left-wing Zimbabwe into refusing to harbour African National Congress terrorists and has just led the *Marxisant* President Machel of Mozambique to sue, in effect, for peace. The latest South African withdrawal from southern Angola, and Mr Botha's talk of possible moves towards a Namibia settlement, are signs of South African strength rather than weakness. Domestically, there is no sign that the security police are losing their grip. Occasional bombs and boycotts bear witness to the seething bitterness beneath the surface, but control is so complete that there are now no more than 11 people "banned" (that is, excluded from all political and much social activity) in the whole of South Africa, compared with several hundred a few years ago.

There is no obvious reason why this mastery should be undermined in the near or even the medium-term future, and this, of course, is one of the factors that leads moderate conservatives to optimism. There is now *time*, they say, for a gradual, non-violent evolution of South Africa to take place. I wish *I could believe that it would happen*, but I remain deeply sceptical. Even the younger, "enlightened" Afrikaner intellectuals and politicians I have met do not really accept the need to do more than tinker with the problems of the urban blacks. And as for the English-speaking whites in the business community, they seem to me subtly less reform-minded than they were when I last encountered them.

This last is an important development, because it casts doubts on the efficacy of the "change-through-economic-necessity" argument; and the reasons for it are not hard to find. For one thing, without the spur of imminent trouble it is painfully easy in South Africa to lapse into complacency. For another, the same events to the north that have taken off the external pressure have finally convinced many white South Africans, formerly of a mildly liberal persuasion, that the black African is irretrievably incompetent to run a country. Africa is seen to be going down the plughole under black management and therefore the notion of handing over to a black successor regime in South Africa is a formula for certain chaos and destruction, even if the change could be peacefully brought about. The degree of philosophical detachment and historical perspective required to think of this as a necessary stage of evolution is, not surprisingly, beyond most whites.

Where this leaves western policy is a matter to which I will return later, but meanwhile I can't honestly say that I came away from South Africa much less depressed about the future there than when I went. Economic necessity may, I will concede, force improvement in black education but the link in the causal chain which is supposed to produce peaceful political advance thereafter seems to be missing. The will among whites to supply it simply does not exist, and that being so, the most likely link to progress will in the long run be a violent one – and forged by blacks.

Philip Howard

After the Marbles, send back the Cross

Well, I dare say we should give Melina back her marbles: and the Winged Victory should go home from the Louvre to Samothrace; and the altar of Zeus should be repatriated from the Staatliche Museum, Berlin, to Pergamum: and we could drag Stonehenge back to Presely Mountain in Pembrokeshire. The Nottingham Museums will send home to Nemi the mysteries of Diana.

But I hear whispers of a move to repatriate a treasure the importance of which makes even the Elgin Marbles frieze into a back entablature. The Israeli Committee for the Restitution of the Cross of Yeshu invites your support. The Persian, Roman, Frankish and Ottoman invasions or occupations of Israel caused even greater destruction of indigenous Cultural Monuments than they did in Greece. After the Roman destruction of the Temple, the Cross of Yeshu survived as a major cultural heritage of the Israeli People.

Of distinguished local ancestry, the Israeli freedom-fighter, Yeshu of Natzeret, was crucified at Yerushalayim in about 30 CE by the Roman Gauleiter, P. Pilate, during the reign of the Quisling tetrarch, H. Antipas of Yehudah. But the Israeli People faithfully preserved Yeshu's Cross by hiding it under the ground. However, in about 326 CE, the British aristocrat and amateur archaeologist Helena took advantage of her connexions with the Occupying Regime to conduct an illicit excavation at Golgota, for which no permit from the Israeli Archaeological Service has been traced.

She "invented" the Cross of Yeshu, which European Museums still misname "The True Cross", or even "The Cross of Helena" (see Knesset *Hansard* 1972 CE). Persians and Romans subsequently scrabbled for the Cross as a spoil of war, but most of it found its way to a museum in Istanbul in about 627 CE. Thereafter tourists, many armed, and some posing as cultural "pilgrims", vandalized the Cross, stealing, bartering, or buying fragments as souvenirs that were placed in European museums. Here the remains are kept in unscientific conditions (in non-air-conditioned "monstrances) exposed to candle-light and polluted atmosphere, and sometimes even offered to unauthorized persons for them to touch and kiss).

Two other committees have expressed interest in the Cross of Yeshu. Their claims are spurious.

● **The Antisvroleipsanological Committee** (chairman: J. Calvin, Geneva) maintains that the Cross is of no cultural significance to anyone, and that if all the fragments now purloined were reassembled there would be enough timber to build a ship. As matters of fact, we reject both propositions.

● **The Cross Belongs to The Cultural Heritage of All the World Committee** (chairman: J. Paul, director, Vatican Museum, and other museum directors) maintains that the Cross is of international cultural significance. Its supporters slyly argue that by preserving and displaying the Cross they are promoting Israeli culture abroad in a way in which Israelis have, until recently, shown no interest.

To this we say that the Cross of Yeshu is an inalienable part of the Israeli Cultural Heritage snatched out of its context by the British aristocrat Helena. We demand its restitution to the Israeli People under Resolution 4/09 adopted by the General Conference of Unesco.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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A TALE OF TWO BUDGETS

In privacy and apparent harmony, Mrs Thatcher's cabinet yesterday conducted its pre-Budget economic confabulation. The financial markets were quite unconcerned. Across the Atlantic, President Reagan's official advisers have been publicly and even abusively disagreeing about the consequences of his budget projections, frightening Wall Street and unsettling the dollar.

Open government is a virtue, and in Britain we still have too little information before the final decisions are taken on public expenditure and taxes – though Mr Nigel Lawson's promise of a green paper on long-term public spending is a welcome step further. But the American Administration is currently offering a parody of frankness which is an insult to all those dependent on the western world's largest economy.

To begin with this year, the financial markets were encouraged not to look too closely at the gaping hole in the President's Budget projections. It is, as his Treasury Secretary Donald Regan keeps reminding everyone, "a political year". In other words, don't worry if the President gets nowhere with his appeal to Congress for bipartisan agreement on budget reductions: if the figures don't add up, we'll put them right after the presidential election.

To their credit, neither Mr Martin Feldstein of the President's Council of Economic Advisers nor Mr David Stockman, his outspoken budget director, have been prepared to mouth such soothing pap. And all this week the titanic figure of Mr Paul Volcker, the independent Chairman of he Federal Reserve Board – America's central bank – has been steadily demolishing Mr Reagan's wishful argument that big budget deficits are not a cause of high American interest rates.

Mr Volcker's view, expressed in several sessions of evidence to Congressional committees, is fair, clear – and sombre. The vast American budget deficit forces up interest rates. It is also reflected in a widening trade deficit which means America has to borrow almost equally vast sums of capital from abroad to plug the gap in its balance of payments. Most damning of all, as far as the financial markets are concerned, he told Congress that if the situation continued unchanged there would be increasing risks of a loss of confidence in the dollar.

The ideal change in American economic policy would be a cut in the budget deficit that allowed interest rates to come down, which in turn would allow the dollar to decline gently to more realistic levels. If the United States remains deperately in need of foreign capital to finance its deficit, the kind of dollar fall that would follow a loss of confidence would not be gentle at all. It is no wonder the financial markets are getting uncomfortable, and that the disagreements among the President's men are only making things worse.

For the dispute between the managers of the budget policy is not just about the correct mix of plain speaking and electioneering that should carry them through 1984, nor even about the degree to which hard decisions can be put off until 1985. It is, increasingly, a reflecton of real anxiety among those whose business it is to project the future about whether the scale of the deficit is now such that even a newly-elected President cannot begin to bridge it.

By 1985, America's boom, already slackening a little, may have subsided altogether. An incoming president will face the task of cutting spending to the bone or forcing taxes way up in the face of an economic recession. Mrs Thatcher bit on that bullet in 1981, but Mrs Thatcher did not face a powerful and independent Congress, with its own views on every detail of public expenditure. Nor has any American president ever found it easy to raise taxes.

President Lyndon Johnson's failure to put taxes up to finance the Vietnam war was an early cause of the inflationary disease that has crippled the world economy from the end of the 1960s to the present day; and President Johnson was past-master at the wheeling and dealing with Congress necessary to effect the slightest change in budgetary policy. It is vital, and yet unlikely, that whoever sits in the White House in 1985 will have equal ability, plus the will, to force federal spending and taxation into line.

BONN'S BANANA SKIN

Nobody expected Herr Kohl to be one of the great chancellors of West Germany, but he seemed in many ways to be a good choice for his time. The last years of the Social Democratic government were difficult and unsettling. Herr Schmidt was increasingly on the defensive within his own party and constantly at odds with the United States. Two of the main planks of party policy – the opening to the East and the welfare state – were bending under stress. The deployment of new missiles was looming up. It was time for a pause for re-thinking, for a re-affirmation of basic values and a restoration of contact with the ordinary people of West Germany, who respected but did not always warm to the sharp intellectualism of Herr Schmidt.

So the decent, friendly provincialism of Herr Kohl seemed to fit the bill. He formed an effective coalition government with the Free Democrats which brought a large – perhaps too large – measure of continuity in the substance of home and foreign policy, but with less noise and turbulence and a marked improvement in the tone of relations with the United States. He was criticized for a certain lack of grip and leadership but the ship of state seemed able to survive it.

Now he has run into his first real trouble over the affair of General Kiessling, a Nato deputy commander, who was prematurely retired in December for allegedly frequenting homosexual bars. When the evidence proved impossible to sustain Herr Kohl rejected the resignation of his defence minister, Herr Wörner, and had General Kiessling re-instated, hoping thereby to put the matter to rest.

So far he has been disappointed. He emerged bruised from Wednesday's parliamentary debate on the subject, in which he was conspicuously denied support by the Bavarian wing of the party. Much of the criticism expressed publicly by the opposition is expressed privately by members of his own party. It is widely felt in Bonn that Herr Wörner has been so discredited in the public eye and among the armed services that he should be allowed to resign. Commentators have resurrected what Herr Kohl himself said some years ago when a Social Democratic defence minister was also landed in trouble by the ineptitude of the military intelligence department: that the minister had a moral obligation to carry responsibility for the affair.

Once criticism begins, everything is thrown into the pot – the corruption charges now pending against Count Lambsdorff, the Economics minister; the somewhat fumbling visit to Israel; poor preparation for the Athens summit; above all the strong impression that the decision on General Kiessling was made not on the merits of the case but in order to avoid a cabinet re-shuffle that would have exposed him to pressure to give a seat to Herr Strauss, the talented but difficult leader of the Bavarian Christian Democrats. By seeming to run away from this problem, which would cause trouble with his Free Democratic partners, he has made himself look weak.

Yet it was not an easy decision. Herr Wörner has been a good defence minister in other respects. To have let him go would have been a loss, and would have made it difficult to keep Herr Lambsdorff (who will anyway have to go if the charges against him are sustained). The coalition would have entered a wobbly phase which could have undermined its authority, and that of Herr Kohl. Nevertheless by not acting according to his own professed principles of honourable behaviour Herr Kohl has also weakened his moral and political authority.

Whether he chose the greater or the lesser evil is not really for outsiders to say, though it is difficult to imagine a British defence minister surviving a similar debacle. What matters now is how far he can re-establish his authority. One obvious way to start would be to investigate whether there are institutional reasons for the apparent ineptitude of military intelligence, which has a sensitive and important role to play in a country as exposed to espionage as West Germany.

TREATING WITH CONTEMPT

The £10,000 fine imposed last week on Sogat '82 for disobeying a High Court order to lift its blacking of the London edition of the *Radio Times* highlights a function of the law of contempt, the protection of the public interest, which has received too little attention. The Sogat case is significant because the fine was imposed at a time when the union had already called off its action. Its purpose was not to coerce the union into obeying the court order, but to punish it for having previously refused to do so.

The principle underlying the decision to fine the union is that deliberate defiance of a court order is more than an infringement of the rights of the aggrieved party: it is also a direct challenge to the authority of the court. The public interest requires that authority to be maintained. Public confidence in the administration of justice would be seriously undermined were it to be thought that particular bodies or groups of individuals could ignore court orders with impunity. The more public and flagrant the disobedience to a court order, the more pressing the need for judicial intervention to vindicate the authority of the court and assert the primacy of the rule of law. Yet, curiously enough, the present practice of the courts does not always seem to meet this need.

The source of the problem is the voluntary nature of the procedure to enforce court nothing, the court does nothing. Had the B.B.C., faced with Sogat's deliberate defiance of the court's order, decided not to initiate contempt proceedings against the union, nothing would have happened. There is a lacuna here in the procedure of the courts. A party who invokes and receives the court's assistance by way of an injunction should not automatically and in every case have the right thereafter to take the matter out of the court's control. It is not always just a question of private rights. Once the law has been set in motion, it has its own momentum.

The present voluntary system has other drawbacks too. So long as it is left entirely to the aggrieved party to apply to enforce the order, he remains vulnerable to intimidation by a powerful opponent. Conversely, the present system permits an aggrieved party to use his option to take proceedings for contempt as a bargaining counter in his negotiations with the other party to the dispute.

What is needed is a change of practice. In an appropriate case, where the public interest requires it, the court itself should be ready to take steps to protect that interest by seeing that its order is obeyed. As a condition of granting the injunction, the court should, where it thinks it right to do so, impose a duty on the party seeking the order to report disobedience back to the court. On such a report, the court should be able to decide for itself whether to take action to whether to institute contempt proceedings. Where the court decides to act for itself, the fact that the aggrieved party was not asking for any sanction to be imposed would no doubt be a factor to be taken into account, but the issue would still be one between the court and the party in contempt.

There are precedents for an advance in this direction. Wilful disobedience of a court order ranks as a contumacious civil contempt, which the court is entitled to deal with of its own motion. The court's power to order that a breach of an injunction should be reported to it was exercised by the National Industrial Relations Court, and was approved by the Phillimore Committee on Contempt in 1974. Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, when he was President of the N.I.R.C., pointed out that this procedure was less abrasive in character than the existing practice, which requires the aggrieved party, if he brings the matter back to court at all, to apply for the extreme sanction of committal or sequestration.

The court has the power to act on its own initiative: it should be more prepared to do so. Clearly the power should be exercised circumspectly, but that is no reason for not exercising it at all. Flagrant and public breaches of court orders, and cases of intimidation, call for the imposition of a sanction. The court should not have to stand by

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A question over question time

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, Strangers trying to listen to Prime Minister's questions in the House yesterday (February 7) must have wondered what on earth was going on. That went for many of us non-strangers, too.

Without going into the matter of who planted what questions, it does seem to me that the procedure now used for Prime Minister's question time has greatly depreciated its undoubted value. Nowadays practically every question for the Prime Minister is the same, i.e., will she detail her movements for that specific day? Any MP called can then ask any supplementary he wishes.

In the past, questions addressed to the Prime Minister were similar to those addressed to other ministers requiring a definite answer. For most MPs to have an identical question on the order paper twice weekly, week after week, would never have been tolerated.

Who gains from the current custom? Not the public, not MPs who really want information and certainly not the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords.
February 8.

Shipping forecasts

From Mr A. E. Somers and others

Sir, It is difficult for a minority group (unless news-worthy from a political point of view) to register a protest in the media, but it is hoped that you will give space to a matter of some concern to all who go to sea in small vessels.

The Cruising Association, representing 4,500 yachtsmen, is greatly concerned at the general presentation of shipping forecasts by the BBC, a matter of very considerable importance from a safety point of view.

Briefly, there are four shipping forecasts per 24 hours and ideally these should be broadcast at six-hourly intervals but instead are unevenly spaced, and a recent proposal indicates that the BBC is considering alterations which will make the spacing even more uneven, varying between four and eight hours, with the early morning forecast at 05.55 hours.

Apart from the unevenness of the timings, this earlier time for the morning broadcast will tend to discourage the inexperienced day sailor from listening, with inevitably increased demands on the search and rescue organisations.

Furthermore, the time devoted to these broadcasts – five minutes – means that the newsreader has to speak at such a speed that it is difficult to record the essential information.

Could not the BBC increase the time allowed by one or two minutes? After all, there are approximately 35,000 to 40,000 yachtsmen and fishermen who are keenly interested in these broadcasts and who represent a not inconsiderable listening group.

Yours etc,
A. E. SOMERS,
C. A. GARNER,
CHRISTINE HUGGINS,
BRIAN LACEY,
NOEL DILLY,
HERBERT DUTTON,
RICHARD BROWN,
ANTHONY BROWNE,
Cruising Association,
Ivory House,
St Katharine Dock, E1.

Old two hundredth

From Mr Brian G. D. Salt

Sir, The demise of the ha'penny as a monetary quantity may be of small importance, but the loss of the coin is another matter. For me it will probably mean that I shall have to give up smoking, since the coin is the only one that can be inserted into the slot of my lighter when I need to re-fuel it. But probably ASH would regard that as a good thing.

But the demise of the fourth leaders in *The Times* (leading article, February 4) was a disaster only less important than the loss of *The Times* itself for 11 months and for shorter periods since. If you cannot get some amusement from the suggestion that we should nationalize the clouds and have a Ministry of Nebulous Planning, or from the detailed discussion in 1945 of the ownership of a dead pheasant observed on the front of a railway engine, then you are indeed a poor fellow (or poor person).

Fortunately a few authentic fourth leaders appeared after their general demise, but even these few seem to have ceased. The last that I can remember was in April, 1973, which discussed the merits or otherwise of Señorita Hernandez's ambition to become a bullfighter.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN G. D. SALT,
Little Sutton Cottage,
49 Sutton Lane South,
Chiswick, W4.

Getting more people back to work

From Professor Anthony Clunies Ross

Sir, Compassion and good sense demand support for the Dean of St Paul's when he pleads (February 7) for more public and private support for voluntary community-service bodies.

Yet the assumption behind his letter, that the age of work for all has gone for good, is I believe, misleading and therefore dangerous.

Popular opinion is all too ready to take an evil of a few years' standing as part of the fixed course of nature. Thus the post-war dollar shortage appeared to be part of the laws of history until it changed mysteriously in 1958-60 into the equally ineluctable dollar surplus.

The weak pound seemed to be endemic, until, in 1980, we were hit by the strong pound, which acquired its own brief immortality as the petro-pound.

Most pertinently, twenty years of inter-war unemployment left even its most brilliant assailants with a view of the possibilities of full employment that turned out, for much of the period since, to be too pessimistic.

The Dean is clearly as aware as any of us that many important things need to be done and that three million or so people are more or less keen to do them. The key change needed to make this possible and acceptable is an arrangement that can keep real rates of pay at levels capable of being covered by marketable output when all willing hands are employed.

Several other European countries have achieved such an arrangement by intelligent negotiation and have for practical purposes maintained near-full employment.

The palliatives proposed by the Dean (compulsory work and pay sharing, restrictions on overtime, compulsory early retirement) would be an admission of defeat. All act to limit work rather than to promote it. If government and unions could agree on these unfamiliar, unwelcome and wasteful devices, then they could probably agree on the much less drastic measures needed for ordering pay claims so as to make full employment possible.

There is, however, one palliative recently proposed by a colleague of mine, Frank Kirwan, which deserves serious attention. It is directed towards the long-term unemployed, whose prospects look otherwise especially bleak. This is that any person who has been registered as unemployed for more than a certain period (say six months) should carry a wage subsidy to any employer who is ready to employ him as an additional worker.

That subsidy should be equal to the total net social-security payment that the person would receive for such period as he could actuarially have been expected to remain unemployed.

This scheme, unlike most palliatives proposed, would actually promote work by lowering the cost of marginal labour; it could be tailored so that no fiscal cost would be expected; and it would help those who had suffered most from the recession and who might otherwise find it most difficult, for no good reason, to find work.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CLUNIES ROSS,
Department of Economics,
University of Strathclyde,
Curran Building,
100 Cathedral Street,
Glasgow.
February 7.

From Mr H. W. Haslam

Sir, The Dean of St Paul's asks whether we need a successor to the "work ethic". Certainly we should be more willing to recognise that fulfilment may be sought and obtained in other activities besides paid employment, but let it not be imagined that high unemployment must be accepted and tolerated as being unavoidable.

We have high unemployment now not because all our needs that can be satisfied by human effort are being met (poverty and deprivation abound) but because, as a society, we have failed to devise ways of satisfying these needs on terms that are mutually acceptable to us as workers and consumers.

Employed and unemployed alike (though especially the former), we value our own capability for work too highly in relation to that of others and we set our expectations too high.

Dr Billy Graham has been quoted as saying that high unemployment is the result of greed and the truth of this simple statement is unescapable. Unemployment may thus be seen in part as a moral issue, a question of values, and it therefore falls very much within the province of the church and its teaching.

Politicians can have some influence on the level of unemployment by helping to fashion the structure of society so that greed works to create employment and prosperity rather than to diminish them, but there are limits to how much they can control the values that each of us sets on his own work and that of other people.

The level of unemployment is ultimately determined not by the actions of governments but by the decisions made individually by every one of us.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY HASLAM,
The Vineyard,
High Street,
Much Hadham,
Hertfordshire.
February 9.

Non-unionism at GCHQ

From Mr G. C. Hampson

Sir, For how much longer are we to be assailed by the assertion that "everyone has the right to belong to a trade union"? Surely it is common knowledge that this "right" doesn't extend to members of the Armed Forces or to the police and the reason for this is obvious.

It is easy to imagine the chaos that would ensue if a member of these forces refused to obey the *orders of his commanding officer if* his union told him not to.

In other places where national security is at risk, such as GCHQ, a comparable situation arises. No doubt the Bishop of Gloucester is right (February 8) when he says that for the *vast majority* of the employees at GCHQ membership of a trade union does not imply that they are politically subversive, let alone a security risk, but in such a sensitive situation it is surely imprudent to allow of there being any chance of divided loyalty.

Previous disruptions at Cheltenham have demonstrated that there has been divided loyalty, and though the consequences to date may not have been very serious the Government would surely be failing in its duty if it did not take steps to eliminate the risk.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. HAMPSON,
Broad Oaks,
16 Monks' Well,
Waverley,
Farnham, Surrey.

From Sir Arthur de la Mare

Sir, In his article, "What price loyalty in this market?" (February 7), Mr Robin Cook, Labour MP, waxes indignant at the trammels which the Government seek to put on the staff of GCHQ. "Several thousand citizens", he declaims, "are to be forced to surrender their civil and legal rights to free association".

Good robust stuff, and I am sure that your readers would like more of it. So, for his next act, will Mr Cook please inveigh against the closed shop, by which many more thousands of citizens are blackmailed into surrendering their civil and legal rights not to join a trades union?

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR de la MARE,
The Birches,
33 Onslow Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.

Countryside heritage

From Mr John Burton

Sir, Who created this country heritage that so concerns Lord Melchett and others (February 6)? Arthur Young, describing Lord Melchett's area of north Norfolk in 1768, wrote:

All the country from Holkham to Houghton was a wild sheep-walk before the spirit of improvement seized the inhabitants: . . . instead of boundless wilds, and uncultivated wastes . . . the country is all cut into inclosures.

Am I the only person exasperated by the hyperbole of the would-be conservationists with their emotive description of "hedgerows hundreds of years old"? Some few hedgerows may be, but the majority are of more recent date, as others testify.

I note that "wide strips of hedgerow have been razed to the ground." This suggests that they have not been uprooted and destroyed and will presumably rise again, although it may be considered a drastic way to cope with neglected husbandry.

Walkers will appreciate the clearance of the wild roses and brambles from the footpath. And who is to say that a stretch of disused railway line should be allowed to revert to a wild, overgrown state, harbouring noxious plants, rather than be cleared for cultivation? At least the latter compensates slightly for the loss of agricultural land taken for development elsewhere.

The countryside is the farmer's workplace and he should be allowed the same privacy within his boundaries as you, Sir, to alter the partitions in your office.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURTON,
16 St John's Road,
Queen's Park,
Chester.
February 6.

Council spending

From the Leader of Norwich City Council

Sir, Mr L. D. Coutts (January 11) points out that among Norfolk district councils Norwich spends 34 per cent over the Government's grant-related expenditure assessment, while four Conservative controlled authorities spend between 20 and 30 per cent under theirs.

Mr Coutts's figures are selective and his conclusions questionable. He points out that the four Norfolk authorities are spending less than what the Government considers necessary to provide a standard level of service, but does not mention that the Norfolk County Council, of between 1978/79 and 1983/84 Norwich City Council's increase in spending relative to target was 3.4 per cent *below* the national average, according to the Government's own figures.

Mr Coutts's suggestion, that in every part of the country local government expenditure should be at the same level, is extremely questionable. Local government is about local difference; we are not a mathematically uniform country. Different local authorities have different problems and different views of how they should be tackled.

The Conservative controlled Association of District Councils and Association of County Councils come out strongly against the rates Bill, not, as Mr Coutts believes, because they fail to understand the

They understand that local democracy is important. They understand that the rates Bill will totally confuse local accountabilities. They understand that local councillors will no longer be responsible for failing to respond to local needs and to the wishes of local electors.

They understand that people are looking to the Government to sort out the shambles into which they have allowed local government finance to fall. They understand that there are no macroeconomic arguments which would justify the Government in taking these powers and that the taking of these powers *is* a constitutional issue.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HOLLIS, Leader.

Giving Icelandic dogs a bad name

From the Ambassador of Iceland

Sir, Lately the British media, both press and television, have been somewhat preoccupied with a problem of cruelty against dogs which mistakenly has been reported to exist in Iceland. The confusion in this matter arose initially because of a municipal regulation which, since 1924, has prohibited the keeping of dogs within the Reykjavik city limits because of a disease which then existed.

It should be noted, however, that the communities adjacent to Reykjavik allow dogs, and the dog ban in Reykjavik has in fact not been strictly enforced. At present the Mayor of Reykjavik is considering proposals which will be put to the city council and, if accepted, would lift the ban if certain conditions, e.g., veterinary inspections, dog licences etc. are met.

It will remain to be seen if the council agrees and whether, in fact, the majority of the population of Reykjavik want to have dogs in their city. Whatever the outcome, I would think it a fair comment to say that Icelanders resemble Britons in their love for dogs and other pets.

Totally unrelated to this issue is the case of a mad dog which had bitten four people last September and whose picture appeared in a daily newspaper and on *Sixty Minutes* on television. The police, who are normally unarmed, were called in and had to kill the dog on the spot to avoid further injury.

This incident was reported in the Icelandic press last September and when it finds its way into the foreign media today it is erroneously considered to have something to do with the dog ban.

The bad image which Iceland has received because of this is wholly unjustified and I would, therefore, greatly appreciate it if these facts could be brought to the attention of your readers.

Yours sincerely,
EINAR BENEDIKTSSON,
Embassy of Iceland,
1 Eaton Terrace, SW1.
February 6.

Welsh plant research

From Mr Hanning Philipps

Sir, As a son of the late Lord Milford, co-founder with Sir George Stapledon of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, I strongly support the letter from a distinguished group of members of Cymmrodorion, entitled "Plea to preserve plant research", which appeared in your issue of January 10.

Set up in 1919 with the aim of making this country more self-sufficient in food by improving the productivity of Welsh hill farming, the work of this institution was amply vindicated in the 1939-45 war. Since, in any future conventional war, starvation must still be our greatest threat, the importance of the research carried on at Aberystwyth remains undiminished.

While the main emphasis of the plant-breeding station's work has throughout been geared to the improvement of Welsh farming, from my own experience overseas I can speak of the great impact it has had, particularly in such far-off countries as New Zealand, Australia and even the United States, in all of which similar stations have subsequently been set up, based on the Aberystwyth pattern. And with all of these close ties in research and even interchange of staff have been maintained.

So important has been much of the research carried out at Aberystwyth that in 1976, as Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, I had the privilege of presenting the Welsh Plant Breeding Station with the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement.

Taking into account the exceptional training the institute provides for students, many of them from the Third World and taking into account its record of service to Welsh farming and even to world farming, I find it difficult to believe that in their search for economies the Welsh Office could not find some less enterprising target to attack.

Yours faithfully,
HANNING PHILIPPS,
Picton Castle,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Sentences in Malawi

From Lord Avebury and Mr Alf Dubs, MP for Battersea (Labour)

Sir, Following today's announcement from Malawi (report, February 8) that the death sentences passed on the opposition leader, Orton Chirwa, and his wife, Vera, have been upheld by the National Traditional Court of Appeal, may we appeal through your columns to President Banda to exercise his prerogative of clemency and commute these death sentences?

Yours faithfully,
AVEBURY, Chairman,
ALF DUBS, Vice-Chairman,
Parliamentary Human Rights Group,
House of Lords.
February 7.

Quicker by Tube?

From Mr R. L. Kilpatrick

Sir, Accompanying a front-page article entitled "Space shuttle loses another satellite" (February 7) is a cartoon featuring a spaceman critically assessing the functional competency of his means of conveyance by saying, "It's always quicker to get out and walk".

Hovering clearly in the background is a Saturn-like planet with a ring, suggestively resembling the logo for London Transport. Has he discovered something which we already know?



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: His Excellency Monsieur Francois-Charles Pictet was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Switzerland to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Claudio Caratsch (Minister), Brigadier-General Heinrich Maendli (Defence Attaché), Dr Jakob Kellenberger (Counsellor – Economic and Financial), Monsieur Hans Bachmann (Counsellor – Commodities and Agriculture), Monsieur Benoit Junod (First Secretary – Cultural Affairs), Monsieur Josef Doswald (First Secretary), Dr Bernhard Marfurt (Second Secretary) and Monsieur Claude Duboulet (Attaché – Head, Consular and Administration).

Madame Pictet had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lord Rhodes had an audience of The Queen.

Miss Muriel Murray Brown had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning selected The Duke of Edinburgh's Designer's Prize for 1984 and afterwards attended a luncheon at the Design Centre, Haymarket, SW1.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Chairman of the Design Council (Sir William Barlow) and the Director (Mr Keith Grant).

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Royal Society of Arts, this afternoon at Buckingham Palace chaired a meeting of the Society's Committee for the Environment.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering and Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, this evening chaired a meeting of the Fellowship, at which the Corps gave a presentation, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, SW1.

His Royal Highness subsequently dined with the Fellowship.

Captain Anthony Milton, RM, was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Adelaide Community Association's Swiss Cottage Community Centre.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 9: The Prince of Wales this morning at Kensington Palace received His Excellency Dr V. A. Seyid Muhammad (High Commissioner for India).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 9: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited BBC External Services at Bush House, London WC2.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, as Patron, later visited the offices of the Mental Health Foundation at Hallam Street, London W1.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Richard Hughes will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on February 28, at noon.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of John Le Mesurier will be held on Thursday, February 16, at noon in the Actors' Church, St Paul's, Covent Garden.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Sir Hedley Atkins will be held at St Clement Danes, Strand, on Wednesday, April 11, at 11.30am.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon F J Plowden and Mrs L G A Miles
The engagement is announced between Francis, younger son of Lord & Lady Plowden, of Martels Manor, Dunmow, and Geraldine, elder daughter of the late Mr Gerald Wickman and of Mrs Wickman, of Orton Longueville, Peterborough.

Sir Frederick Hoare, Bt, and Mrs J H Bamber
A marriage has been arranged and will take place shortly between Frederick Hoare, of Cadogan Square, London, and Sarah Lindsay Bamber, of co Antrim, Northern Ireland and of Eaton Place, London, widow of James H Bamber.

Mr R G Hamilton-Dalrymple and Miss A M Gibson
The engagement is announced between Robert George, third son of Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bt, and of Lady Anne-Louise Hamilton-Dalrymple, of Leuchie, North Berwick, and Anna Mary, only daughter of the late Mrs Charlotte Gibson and of Major David Gibson and stepdaughter of Mrs David Gibson, of Bishopswood Grange, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Mr M A A Nolan and Miss A M C Oh
The engagement is announced between Michael Alfred Anthony, son of Sir Michael and Lady Nolan, of Tanners, Brasted, Westerham, Kent, and Adeline Mei Choo, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Oh, of Singapore and Hurlingham, London.

Mr A. F. Bell and Miss A. M. Compton
The engagement is announced between Alexander Fulton Bell, of Drumclune, Forfar, younger son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bell, of St Andrews, and Alison Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Compton, of West Mains of Turin, Forfar.

The Rev A. P. Brown and Miss S. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Anthony Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Brown, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Thompson, of Pelsall, Walsall.

Mr A. N. Dagnall and Miss A. M. Milito
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Dagnall, of Chiswick, London and France, and Anna Maria, only daughter of Signora Milito Maria in Carbone and stepdaughter of Signor Carbone Agostino, of Latina, Italy.

Mr G. S. Elwes and Miss E. M. Manson
The engagement is announced between Giles, second son of Mr and Mrs J. G. G. P. Elwes, of Elsham Hall, Brigg, South Humberside, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs J. J. N. Manson, of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Mr D. H. Gye and Miss R. S. Walker
The engagement is announced between David, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs A. H. Gye, of Selborne, Hampshire, and Renny, daughter of Mr and Mrs K. R. Walker, of Springfield, Birmingham.

The Rev D. R. Harris and Miss S. M. A. Weston
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr and Mrs Rowland Harris, of Castle Hedingham, Essex, and Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Weston, of Sidcup, Kent.

Mr T. S. Hollis and Mrs A. C. Brand
The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of the Ven G. and Mrs Hollis, of Moseley, Birmingham, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. H. Denby, of Steyning, Sussex.

Mr D. F. Jennings and Miss G. A. Bras
The engagement is announced between Dale, only son of Mr and Mrs A. Jennings, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Gina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Bras, of Marford, Clwyd.

Mr J. B. Josephs and Miss A. C. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Rev J. W. and Mrs Josephs, of Stoneygate, Leicester, and Christine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. C. Bailey, of Storrington, Sussex.

Mr J. E. McNulty and Miss B. Scott
The forthcoming marriage is announced between John Eve McNulty, of Ireland Cottage, Warsash, Hampshire, elder son of the late John and Amy McNulty, and Barbara Scott, of 51 Chelsea Gardens, SW1, younger daughter of Mrs Irene Gilliam, of Yorks, and the late John Scott, of Craigellachie.

Mr D. C. W. Norman and Miss H. F. Rutter
The engagement is announced between Duncan, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Archie Norman, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bob Rutter, of Pyle Hill, Woking, Surrey.

Mr A. C. Pugh and Mlle C. H. R. P. Langevin
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs L. G. Pugh, of Waldron House, Waldron, Sussex, and Chantal, daughter of M A. Langevin, of Paris, and the late Mme H. Langevin.

Mr M. H. Rosenberg and Miss D. A. Poole
The engagement is announced between Morris, only son of the late Dr H. Rosenberg, OBE, and Mrs M. M. Rosenberg, of Worthing, West Sussex, and Deborah only daughter of Mr and Mrs John E. T. Poole, of Truro, Cornwall.

Mr R. L. Steel and Miss S. A. Stratz
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of the late Mr J. E. Steel and of Mrs B. M. Steel, Glanton, Northumberland and Sheila, elder daughter of Mr J. G. Stratz, Lugano, Switzerland, and Mrs J. G. McCarthy, of Kensington, London.

Dr D. R. Thomas and Dr E. E. Nilheden
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs V. H. Thomas, of Gorslas, Dyfed, South Wales, and Eva, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Nilheden, of Uppsala, Sweden.

Mr A. P. R. Truss and Miss M. Assersohn
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs R. Truss, of Rake, West Sussex, and Maureen Assersohn, of Milland, West Sussex, only daughter of Mr Jerrold Assersohn and the late Mrs Betty Assersohn.

Marriage

Judge I. R. Taylor, QC and Mrs A. J. Goldman
The marriage took place quietly in Manchester on February 9 of Judge Ivor R. Taylor, QC, and Mrs Joyce Goldman, both of Altrincham, Cheshire.

Birthdays today

Mr Larry Adler, 70; Dame Judith Anderson, 86; Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Bagnall, 57; Miss Olwyn Bowey, 48; Mrs Elizabeth Carson, 92; Dr Alexander Comfort, 64; Dr Walter Hamilton, 76; Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton, 88; Sir Alister Hardy, 88; Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, 64; Mr Harold Macmillan, OM, 90; Lord Milne, 75; Lord Orr-Ewing, 72; Sir Idwal Pugh, 66.

Queen Alexandra's House

A wine and cheese party to celebrate the centenary of Queen Alexandra's House will be held for past and present students on Wednesday, March 21, between 6.30 and 8.30 pm. Former students should apply to the principal, Queen Alexandra's House, Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2QT, before February 28.

St Edmund's College

The Governors of St Edmund's College, Ware, have appointed Brigadier C. Hince to succeed Captain J. J. Phillips as clerk to the governors and bursar in August 1984.

Dinners

Speaker
The Speaker gave a dinner in Speaker's House yesterday in honour of a parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Ireland led by the Ceann Comhairle of the Dail. The Ambassador for the Republic was also present. Other guests were:



Mr Reginald Freeson, MP, Mr Harold Walker, MP, Mr Donald Anderson, MP, Mr Roy Beggs, MP, Mr William Benyon, MP, Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP, Mr John Browne, MP, Dr Michael Clark, MP, Mr Andrew Faulds, MP, Lord Fitt, Mr Peter Hordern, MP, Mr John Hume, MP, Mr Michael McGuire, MP, Mr Kevin McNamara, MP, Mr Ken Maginnis, MP, Mr Paul Marland MP, Michael Marshall, MP, Mr Michael Mates, MP, Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, Mr John Page, MP, Mr Martin Stevens, MP, Mr John Stokes, MP, Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, Baroness Vickers, Mrs Bridgett Anson, Canon Trevor Beeson, Mr Kenneth Bradshaw, Captain Peter Shaw and Mr William Beaumont.

Royal Automobile Club
Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Royal Automobile Club, presented the RAC, Diamond Jubilee Trophy to Mr Richard Noble, holder of the world land speed record, at a dinner given by Mr Jeffrey Rose, Chairman of the RAC, and the committee in the clubhouse, Pall Mall, London, last night. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and Sir Carl Aarvold, vice-presidents of the club, were among the guests.

British Diabetic Association
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, last night attended a dinner held in aid of the British Diabetic Association at Plaisterers' Hall. Sir Harry Secombe, President of the association, presided

Reception

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was host at a civic reception held yesterday evening at the Hotel Inter-Continental. The guests included:
The Norwegian Ambassador, the chairman of the Greater London Council, the High Bailiff of Westminster, Members of Parliament for Westminster, mayors of London boroughs, the chairman of ILEA, representatives in the city of the arts, armed services, church, Civil Service, education, institutions and societies, law, medicine, public services and street associations and members and chief officers of the city council.



The National Theatre players on stage with their Oxo Tower

Touch of drama on Coin Street

By Christopher Warman

The drama of the controversial Coin Street redevelopment plan for the South Bank near to the National Theatre last night moved inside the theatre with a play about the 10-year fight by local people to prevent office development in the area.

With a backdrop of the threatened Oxo Tower, a cast of nine, most of them National Theatre players, are giving two platform performances (the second is tonight) in the Cottesloe Theatre.

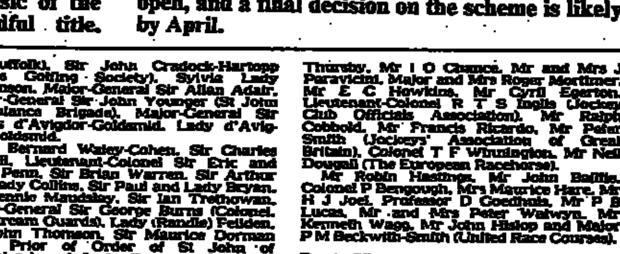
This drama documentary with music of the long-running saga, with the dreadful title, *Elementary my dear... Homes!*, has been written by Louanne Tranchell and Mark Wheatley and is directed by Elliott Cooper, of the National Theatre Company.

Mr Cooper, who has followed the arguments about the redevelopment plan during the six years he has spent at the National, said the play was a way of presenting the controversy in a more entertaining way.

The show is well timed, for next week a public inquiry into the closure of roads in the area is to open, and a final decision on the scheme is likely by April.

Memorial services

Mr T. F. Blackwell
A memorial service for Mr Thomas Francis Blackwell was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Neville Thomas officiated. Mr John Blackwell (brother) read from "Journey for a Soul" by Pope John XXIII and Mr Jocelyn Hambro read the lesson. Viscount Whitelaw, CH, gave an address. Among those present were:



Mr and Mrs Charles Blackwell (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Tim Holland-Martin (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Mary McCraith (sister), Mr and Mrs Neville Solway, Mr and Mrs James Rugge-Price, Mr David McCraith, Mr Richard McCraith, Miss Joanna McCraith, Mrs J Cockburn.

The Duke of Devonshire (Animal Health Trust) with Baroness Trumpington (appeals committee); the Duke of Marlborough, Margaret Marchioness of Aberdeen, the Marchioness of Tavistock, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Scarbrough, Earl Cadogan, the Earl of Halifax, Viscount Leverhulme, Viscountess Whitelaw, Viscount Chelsea, Lord Desmond Chichester (chairman, Colne Valley Water Company) and Lady Desmond Chichester, Lord Bruce Dundas, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Lord Lurgan, Lord Luke, Lord Margadale, Lord Tollemache (Council of St John for Suffolk), Lord Somerleyton (East Anglian Water Company), Lord Manton (Jockey Club), Lord Belper, Lord and Lady Plummer of St Marylebone, Lord Grimthorpe, Lady Willoughby de Broke, Lord Kilmany, Lord and Lady Sackville, Lord and Lady Howard de Walden, Lord Oaksey.

Lord Grey of Naunton (Order of St John), Lord McAlpine of Moffat, Lord Lyell, Lady John Wellesley, Lady Rose Nevill, the Hon Sir John Astor, the Hon Hugh and Mrs Lawson Johnston, the Hon Pearl Lawson Johnston, the Hon Mrs Noreen Bull, the Hon Mrs Graham, the Hon Sir Anthony Oakshott, the Hon Aylmer Tryon, Colonel the Hon Julian Berry, the Hon Mrs Michael Watt, Sir Joshua Rowley (Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk), Sir John Cradock-Hartopp (Moles Golfing Society), Sylvia Lady Wilkinson, Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Major-General Sir John Younger (St John Ambulance Brigade), Major-General Sir James d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid.

Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen, Sir Charles Russell, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Eric and Lady Penn, Sir Brian Warren, Sir Arthur and Lady Collins, Sir Paul and Lady Bryan, Sir Rennie Maudslay, Sir Ian Trethowan, Major-General Sir George Burns (Colonel, Coldstream Guards), Lady (Randle) Feilden, Sir John Thomson, Sir Maurice Dorman (Lord Prior of Order of St John of Jerusalem) and Lady Dorman, Sir John Musker, Lady Bowes-Lyon, Dame Ann Parker Bowles, Lady Holland-Martin, Sir Robert Speed, Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, Colonel Sir Henry and Lady Clowes, Mr Mark Armitage, Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Agate, Mr and Mrs James Hambro, Mr and Mrs Bruce Hobbs, Mr and Mrs Ian Pilkington.

Colonel T Wallis, Mr James Whatman, Colonel M W Maxse (Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, Coldstream Guards), Mr Rory and Lady Elizabeth More O'Ferrall, Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Brooks, Mr Michael and Lady Angela Oswald, Mr Ian Beer (Headmaster of Harrow School, representing the Dean of Windsor), Captain David Buchan of Auchmacoy, Mr John Page, MP, Mr W F Sale (representing governors and staff of Wellesley House School), Air Commodore W T Brooks (Racecourse Association) and Mrs Brooks.

Mr Christopher Weatherby (Weatherbys), Rear-Admiral W J Munn, Mr D H R Holland (Old Harrovian Golfing Society), Mr Michael Watt (Tattersalls), Mr G J Salveson (Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews), Mr F R Brown (representing the captain, members and staff, Royal Worthington and Newmarket Golf Club), Mr M T Turnbull (Harrow School Cricket Fund), Mr Peter Willett (Thoroughbred Breeders Association), Major Michael Pope (National Trainers Federation), Mr Neil Fisher (Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society), Mr Geoffrey Edwards (Westminster Chamber of Commerce).

Mr T Ricketts (Horserace Betting Levy Board, also representing the Director of the National Stud), Mr Gordon Spencer (Essex Water Company), Mr Michael Swallow (Water Companies Association), Colonel Michael Demetriadi (St John Ambulance, Suffolk), Mr and Mrs Neville Ford, Mr J H Thursby, Mr I O Chance, Mr and Mrs J Paravicini, Major and Mrs Roger Mortimer, Mr E C Howkins, Mr Cyril Egerton, Lieutenant-Colonel R T S Inglis (Jockey Club Officials Association), Mr Ralph Cobbold, Mr Francis Ricardo, Mr Peter Smith (Jockeys' Association of Great Britain), Colonel T F Winnington, Mr Neil Dougall (The European Racehorse).

Mr Robin Hastings, Mr John Baillie, Colonel P Bengough, Mrs Maurice Hare, Mr H J Joel, Professor D Goedhuis, Mr P B Lucas, Mr and Mrs Peter Walwyn, Mr Kenneth Wagg, Mr John Hislop and Major P M Beckwith-Smith (United Race Courses).

Dr A. Hunter
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Alastair Hunter was held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Ian Ainsworth-Smith officiated, assisted by the Rev Christopher Courtauld and the Rev Anthony Hirst. Mr John Elliott, President of the Thames Hare and Hounds Club, and Dr Richard West, Dean of St George's Hospital Medical School, read the lessons and Sir Douglas Logan gave an address. Among those present were:
Miss Diana Hunter (sister), Mr Gordon Fenwick, Mr Christopher Fenwick, Mr and Mrs John Barbeary, Miss Pamela Beveridge.

Sir Gordon Wolstenholme (Harveian Librarian, Royal College of Physicians, representing the president) and Lady Wolstenholme with Dr D A Pyke, Mr G M G Tibbs, Miss Iris Rawlings, Miss S M Kift and Miss J Denny; Sir Jack and Lady Rampton, Sir Brian Windeyer, Sir Edward and Lady Tuckwell.

Lady Clarke, Lady Logan, Sir William Mansfield Cooper, Sir Theo and Lady Crawford, Sir Michael Walker (chairman, Commonwealth Scholarships Commission), Mr G C Lloyd-Roberts (Royal College of Surgeons of England), Dr Dennis Farr (director, Courtauld Institute of Art), Professor Peter Sleight (Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford), Professor Michael Jaffé (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge), Professor L P Le Quesne

Science report

Wild sea eagle may hatch in UK

By Hugh Clayton

This year may see the first successful British hatching of a wild sea eagle in living memory. Captive wild birds from abroad have been released in the Western Isles of Scotland for more than eight years. Eggs were laid last year but broken, probably by the eagles themselves, before hatching.

The emergence of chicks in 1984 would be an outstanding success for the reintroduction campaign supported by the Nature Conservancy Council, the wildlife quango. The white-tailed sea eagle is one of the most striking of European wild birds, its wingspan can reach more than six feet and its age more than 40 years.

Like other birds of prey it is a ruthless and graceful hunter. One observer watched one being mobbed by seagulls. "With a sudden and elegant twist, it succeeded in grasping one reckless individual which it then plucked and ate on a post near by."

The incident is recalled in a book about the white-tailed sea eagle by Mr John Love, manager of the official effort to persuade the bird to live and breed again in the wilds of Scotland. The bird has a long history of persecution which ended in Britain in 1918 when the last native specimen was shot.

Research suggests that the bird is in decline almost everywhere, that about 1,000 wild pairs survive in Europe, and that Scotland provides some excellent settings for efforts at reintroduction.

Scotland is one of the most important refuges in Europe for the golden eagle. But that bird lives inland in areas which had a sparse human population in the years when the sea eagle was being persecuted on the coast. Golden eagles often flee when intruders approach their eyries. White-tailed sea eagles are more likely to circle near by and present an easy target.

They were once found round much of the Scottish coast and in parts of England. At one stage a bounty of a shilling a bird was offered to those who killed them in the Lake District. Their eggs were often stolen for collectors and the wings of sea eagles were once sold in Norway as brooms.

They eat many fish and hares, but few lambs. Despite the claims of many detailed legends, they do not carry off and eat children. But reintroduction in Scotland will not be easy if farmers there fear that the birds may take their lambs.

Mr Love believes that most of the lambs eaten by sea eagles are dead, often from starvation, before the birds find them. "Sheep and lambs have generated more emotion among shepherds than they ever provided actual nourishment for eagles", he writes.

The Return of the Sea Eagle, Cambridge University Press; £15

OBITUARY

MISS MARY SKEAPING
Ballet director and producer

Mary Skeaping, a distinguished director and producer of ballet, died on February 9 in St Charles's Hospital, Kensington. She was 81. Her reputation was based chiefly on her productions of the nineteenth century ballet classics, but she was an expert also in earlier historical periods and had made a unique contribution to understanding of old dance styles by her reconstructions of long-lost ballets.

Mary Skeaping was born at Woodford, Essex, on December 15, 1902. Her dance studies provided an understanding of several traditions, as she numbered among her teachers the Italian dancer and mime Francesca Zanfretta, the Russian émigrés Novikov, Trefilova and Egorova, and the Hungarian Rudolph von Laban, besides the outstanding English teacher Margaret Craske. However, in spite of appearing with various companies including Pavlova's and the Nemchinova-Dolin Ballet, Skeaping's fame began once her personal dancing days were over.

After spending the war years teaching in South Africa, she was in charge of the dancing in a film, *The Little Ballerina*, in 1947, and the following year became ballet mistress of the Sadler's Wells Ballet at Covent Garden. She left after three years to start a career as a freelance producer, but also spent nine years from 1953 as director of the Royal Swedish Ballet in Stockholm.

It was during that period that Mary Skeaping began her historical reconstructions, taking advantage of the possibilities for authentic presentation offered by the perfectly preserved old stage machinery at the Drottningholm Court Theatre outside Stockholm. The most celebrated of those productions was *Cupid out of his humour*, to Purcell's music, mounted for a visit to Sweden by Queen Elizabeth II in 1965. Another notable achievement as director was to persuade the choreographer Antony Tudor back to Europe to create the most substantial of his later ballets, *Echoing of Trumpets*.

As early as 1951, Mary Skeaping had been responsible for the production of *The Sleeping Beauty* which was BBC Television's first live transmission of a full-length ballet classic, and she later mounted productions of that ballet, *Giselle* and *Swan Lake* in many countries of Europe and America. From 1963 she worked often with Ballet for All, and some of her historic productions for them are preserved on television and video.

Mary Skeaping was acknowledged as an expert particularly in seventeenth and eighteenth century dance styles. In Stockholm she made a television series on historic dance styles, and she was the author of a monograph, *Ballet under the Three Crowns*, on the history of ballet in Sweden from 1637 to 1792.

Her work was recognized by her appointment as MBE in 1958, and the award of the Order of Vasa in 1961 and the Carina Ari Medal in 1971.

DR BERNARD SCHLESINGER

Dr. Bernard Schlesinger, formerly Senior Physician at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street and Consultant Paediatrician at University College Hospital died on January 25 at the age of 87. He was the last surviving founding member of the British Paediatric Association and was its president in 1954-5.

Educated at Uppingham, he refused a commission in the 1914-18 War and served in the ranks throughout, both on the Western Front and in the Middle East where he entered Jerusalem with Allenby. He then undertook his medical studies at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and at University College Hospital, and qualified in 1924.

He turned early to his chosen speciality and after resident training at Great Ormond Street was appointed to the staff there in 1927 and to University College Hospital in 1946. His paediatric interests were widespread and included the rheumatic disorders of childhood which was the subject of a number of his publications as well as of his Milroy lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1938. He had been elected FRCP in 1936.

His paediatric views were in many ways well in advance of his times and at UCH, with his colleague Dr R. E. Bonham Carter, he opened the first unit in London for the care of children born prematurely. They were also amongst the first to make provisions for mothers to live in with their sick children in a London teaching hospital.

Schlesinger served in the RAMC throughout the Second World War, rising to the rank of Brigadier, and while in India he became Consultant Physician to the North West Army and Central Commands. He was appointed OBE for his services and continued as honorary Civilian Consultant in Paediatrics to the Army until his retirement.

The affectionately given nickname of "Jumbo" characterised his geniality and warmth, as well as his exuberance on the tennis and squash courts, where well into his seventies he could wear down opponents decades his junior. His only concession to winter would be a small scarf around his neck.

In 1925 he married Winifred Regensberg who was a talented amateur violinist. They had five children, three of whom survive and their son John has earned international acclaim as a film director.

MR PHILIP SCHNEIDAU

Mr Philip Schneidau, DSO, who as a flight lieutenant in the RAF was one of the first British officer agents parachuted into occupied France in the Second World War and established the nucleus of an intelligence organization there died in Cheltenham on January 24. He was 80.

Born of British parents in Paris on September 4, 1903, Schneidau was educated in Guernsey and Devon and became a chartered accountant in France. At the age of 21 he chose British nationality and in 1940 was driver and interpreter to Air Marshal Arthur Barratt in France, with the rank of sergeant.

In Britain, after the fall of France, Schneidau was commissioned and was selected for the hazardous operations across the Channel. His wife in Paris and her father, Paul Schiffmacher, were also engaged in clandestine activities against the Nazis, and were subsequently both betrayed and suffered for it, she being tortured by the Gestapo and her father, who was caught with plans of St Nazaire submarine base on his person, being sent to Buchenwald. He survived and lived to 92; Mrs Schneidau is still alive.

After his first parachute descent Schneidau returned to Britain, being one of the first agents embarked by night in a Lysander aircraft from enemy territory. On this journey the aircraft crashed in northwest Britain, but Schneidau survived.

Two months later he was again parachuted into France and landed in a tree, where he was suspended for most of the night, injuring himself in struggling to get free. On recovering from his injuries he carried out the task set him, and again returned to Britain by Lysander.

The citation for the DSO which he was later awarded said that his experiences had been of great value in developing and training his successors. But, referring to the betrayal of his family the citation added: "Owing to circumstances beyond our control, this promising project has met with disaster and Flight Lieutenant Schneidau has suffered personal loss and acute anxiety as the result of his high efforts in the Allied cause".

After his second return from France Schneidau was employed in arranging air and sea transport to and from France for Polish and French agents. He was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and received the Croix de Guerre; his wife also received awards for her courage.

After being attached to the British Embassy in Paris from 1944 to 1947 Schneidau resumed his profession and later became a financial adviser and consultant in Paris. In addition to his wife he is survived by their son.



THE ARTS

Andrea Chenier tonight, at long last, returns to Covent Garden, with José Carreras in the title role. Interview by **John Higgins**

No time to count the calories

For the past fortnight José Carreras has been singing in *Bohème* at Covent Garden. "The best Rodolfo we have" was the response of one critic, and certainly it is a part which Puccini might have tailored specially for him. But Rodolfo has now passed to Veriano Luchetti while Carreras remains in Paris, operatically speaking, and tonight tackles the title role of *Andrea Chenier*.

Giordano's best-known opera sat in the repertory at Sadler's Wells during the days of the Craig-Glossop partnership there. It is half a century, though, since it has been heard at Covent Garden. The absence is a little strange because few major Italian tenors, from Caruso and Gigli onwards, would have thought their careers complete without singing Chenier. And the same applies to a number of non-Italians, including Thill and now Carreras.

Chenier comes after a year in which Carreras has been tackling some of the heavier roles of the Italian tenor repertory for the first time on stage. There was Calaf in the Vienna State Opera's *Turandot* in midsummer: nobody much liked the production but Carreras's performance was reckoned a success. Soon after came his first Manrico outside the recording studios in a revival of *Il trovatore* at Covent Garden, one of the better evenings of a disappointing season, in which the tenor had clearly worked hard at the role and deserved his triumph. There has also been Alvaro in *La forza del destino* at La Scala as well as at the Met in New York.

Does Carreras, who was 37 in December and has so far been considered as a lyric tenor despite excursions into operas like *Aida* at the Salzburg Festival, see this as a turning-point in his career? "No, I still think of myself as that lyric tenor, but one with dark colouring in the voice. The real reason for Calaf, Manrico, Alvaro and Chenier is that I need the constant stimulus of new roles. My mentality and temperament have always demanded both excitement and something fresh. A year without at least one major addition to my repertory would be a year wasted.

"But I'm not sure that I agree with this classification of 'heavy roles'. Take Alvaro. Often he has to contend with no more than a pizzicato in the orchestra. Rodolfo in *Bohème*, generally reckoned a purely lyric part, in Act III needs far more vocal power than Alvaro, and much the same could be said of Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. It would be more accurate to say that there are certain operas one should not sing too often. It's important to ration out the appearances and then turn to something quite different. A German tenor, after performing in Wagner, will make sure he does a few Taminos; I lighten my voice by going back to Donizetti."

Carrreras, whose technique is exemplary and who is clearly able to pace his own development, is probably alone among the world's leading tenors in never having had a professional singing teacher. The man who first helped him is now 74, and still lives in Barcelona, Carreras's birthplace; he retains his amateur status and the confidence of his own star pupil. "Every time I go home I see him for advice on my voice and on what I should do next. Never have I felt the need to go to anyone else."

The other person who furthered the Carreras career was Montserrat Caballé's brother, Carlos, who heard him entirely by chance when he was auditioning at the Licea in Barcelona. Carreras at that time was a chemistry student, but with the help of Carlos Caballé got his first major part, Ismaele in Verdi's *Nabucco*. A little later he was singing opposite sister Montserrat in Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia*. Could he have been lost to chemistry for ever without the Caballé family? "They both gave me great moral and professional support. I just think it would have needed perhaps another five years to get started."

Surprisingly, it took Carreras, who has shown plenty of sympathy for the French repertory, some time to get around to his namesake José in *Carmen*. His recording of the part, under Karajan, released last autumn, has won considerable acclaim. Before making the set he had sung José in only two productions, one in Zurich and the other in Madrid. Had he deliberately tried Bizet first out of the glare of the major operatic circuit?

"No. I realize that some of my colleagues prefer to test a new part in a small opera house. That's never been my approach. If I decide to take on a role then I'm quite happy to sing it for the first time in a major international house. It just happened that the offers from Zurich and Madrid came at the moment when I thought it was right for me to tackle José. And possibly what I sang for Karajan was rather different. From the start Karajan said to me 'With your voice and your personality you must make José a very romantic figure'. So together we tried to create a rather naive character, a boy who is an optimist, who believes right up to the last act that everything will turn out to be all right in the end." That *Carmen* turned out to be one of the best opera sets of 1983.

So far Carreras has not touched the German repertoire either on record, on stage or in recital. The reason, he claims, is purely linguistic. "I have never wanted to be a *papagallo* [parrot] mouthing words I do not understand. Some of my fellow artists are quite happy to sing in languages of which they speak not a word, but that is not for me. Before I sing in German I will have to learn German, and that takes time. One of these days perhaps I will; then I could be a Walther, a Lohengrin or a Max in *Freichütz*. The same applies to Russian. In many ways Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* would be an ideal role. I've discussed it with Colin [Davis]. Maybe I could do it in English at Covent Garden . . ."

There are reservations of a different kind about Otello, which remains one of the few holes in Carreras's Verdi repertoire, although he is none too keen to return to Radames despite Karajan's luring him into the Salzburg production. "I don't think you should consider taking on Otello before you are 40, so I will not be opening the score for another four or five years. At the moment I haven't the right voice, nor have I got the human or artistic maturity."

Carreras is fond of referring to roles like Manrico, Calaf and Andrea Chenier as the tenor's "high calorie" diet. Nothing on the Italian menu comes stuffed with more calories than Otello. So, as far as the recording industry is concerned, he will try to lower the richness of the intake a little. A Nemorino *(Elisir)* for Philips, a Pinkerton with Levine, a Duke in *Rigoletto* with Muti (not many calories, perhaps, but punishing demands on the voice), an unknown Rossini, *Ermione*, with Claudio Scimone, and another testing part, the title role in Donizetti's *Poliuto*. Enough calories for the time being.

● Carreras gives a recital of popular song at the Barbican on *May 5*.

José Carreras as Andrea Chenier

Theatre

Pent up emotions

Tom and Viv
Royal Court

As with his piece on Lee Harvey Oswald, Michael Hastings's *Tom and Viv* is a stage biography assembled from the sketchiest source material; by which I do not mean to imply that Mr Hastings is given to perverse choices, but rather that he uses the stage to tackle puzzles inaccessible to formal biography.

As with Oswald, so the life of T. S. Eliot presents a large puzzle – in the shape of a first wife reputed to be mad, who vanished into institutional seclusion and was firmly erased from the public Eliot record.

If the Eliot estate finds fault with Mr Hastings's play, it has only itself to blame for sitting tight on the evidence and allowing rumours to fester. *Tom and Viv* is not a piece of extravagant fiction. Through a chronological series of short, often abruptly cut-off scenes, it follows the events with almost ostentatious attention to surfaces, at the expense of inner thoughts; often leaving you with the wish that the author had indulged his imagination a bit more.

All the same, a clear pyschological outline does emerge; beginning with the young Eliot's besotted attachement to Vivienne Haigh Wood – who similtaneously embodied the patrician British society he wished to exchange for his St Louis heritage and an impulsiveness of temperament which he singularly lacked. "Take the plunge, Tom" is her call throughout; and he is never able to rise to it.

What follows is a latter-day dance of death, supervised by the members of the Haigh Wood family, who would have stopped the marriage had they been able to, but afterwards relied on Eliot to look after the girl whose instability they could hardly bring themselves to face.

So far as Eliot is concerned, the portrait undergoes a most subtle and persuasive transformation. In the early scenes, he figures as a victim: misled, perhaps, by Anglophile snobbery, but utterly powerless to deal with Vivienne's possessive excesses once he escaped from the family bank job and began to take his place in the literary establishment.

The pain comes out chiefly by means of scenic contrast. Here is Vivienne dressed *en travestie* as Crippen's mistress, showing off her husband's Bloomsbury cronies to her disapproving mother (Margaret Tyzack, billowing around the salon in Marie Antoinette draperies); come the next morning, and she tells him she has posted his briefcase down the rubbish chute, as he stands there adjusting his tie as if going out to meet a firing squad.



Tom Wilkinson: Eliot's responses marvellously captured

Eliot's response throughout – marvellously captured by Tom Wilkinson – is to preserve a studied, stoical passivity. He is totally incapable of breaking British decorum so far as to attack her; only at oblique moments, as where she innocently asks if he likes chocolate, does his wrath break out.

As eminence takes its toll, however, it also supplies him with an alibi for absence; and his sheer disappearance from the scene, and the cold-blooded long-range separation and commital decisions, tell their own story. By the end, with Vivienne staunchly defending him, and refusing other help, the sympathies have swung round to her side. This is largely thanks to the work of Julie Covington, whose performance works miracles of surprise and unexpected shafts of generosity.

Max Stafford-Clark's production, which turns Eliot's bowler and umbrella into symbolic emblems and projects the conflicting worlds of the period on Antony McDonald's mansion-backed stage, is a model of expressive discipline.

● The part of Monticelso in the Greenwich production of *The White Devil* is played by David William, and not by Charles Kay, as stated in my notice of February 6. My apologies to both artists.

Irving Wardle

Television

Promise of doom

The Boy in the Bush (Channel 4 began with a young Englisman being dispatched to Austrlia in order to "strengthen his chracter" – an arguable decison, and one which will no doubt have fatal consequences. For some reason, there always are fatal consequnces in televison drama. Although this series has been adapted from a novel by D. H. Lawrence, it was hard to believe that its script bore much resemblance to the original dialogue; but the combination of a rather taciturn Englishman and a sultry female cousin – she has "a great sense of fun but no tact", which might be the definition of a Lawrentian heroine – has possibilities.

The first episode (three to come) was necessarily involved in intruducing the characters, most of whom seemed immediately to be at each others' throats. There was certainly room for mutual dislike: Dr Rackett has a soul which is rotting away, according to a farmhand, and the dreadful grandmother spends most of her time talking about corpses, maggots and her missing leg. Kenneth Branagh, as Jack, has the right mixture of aggression and reserve, and the Australian cast mercifully lacked that theatrical masculinity which was so prominent a feature of *The Thorn Birds*. As a result, this was a better adaption than might have been expected; it has managed to create an atmosphere of mystery and violence which has not yet toppled over into melodrama.

Here We Stand (Channel 4) was billed as a *World in Action Special* although, as is usually the case with documentaries which advertise their importance in advance, it was not quite as special as all that. The setting was the "bandit country" of Ulster, just north of the border with the Irish Republic, and it was a study of the Protestant community of that area who are, it seems, tired of being accused of dour bigotry and mindless factionalism. Here they spoke for themselves – not the first time this has happened on televison, but the fear and anger which possess these people do not stale in repetition.

They proposed various arguments in self-justification. It was suggested that Protestantism, in contrast to Catholicism, acted as a liberal force in society, and that economic necessity rather than atavistic loyalty bound Ulster to the United Kingdom. That may well be the case, for some Protestants at least – but others were equally keen to denounce Catholicism as "blasphemy" and seemed to be animated by that purblind tribalism which divides the world into "us" against "them". I suspect that these are the people who have the future in their pockets, like a gun.

Peter Ackroyd

Cinema

On the road to a moral hell

Under Fire (15)
Leicester Square Theatre

Star Struck (PG)
Gate Bloomsbury

"The Outrageous Innocence of Luis Buñuel"
National Film Theatre

America's buccaneering foreign policies and the machinations of the CIA have opened up new fields of drama for film-makers. Costa-Gavras's *Missing* was set in Chile, Stephen Frears's *Saigon – Year of the Cat* in Vietnam, Peter Lilienthal's *The Uprising* in Nicaragua. Roger Spottiswoode's Under Fire, written by Ronald Shelton and Clayton Froham, is also set in Nicaragua, in the last throes of the Somoza regime.

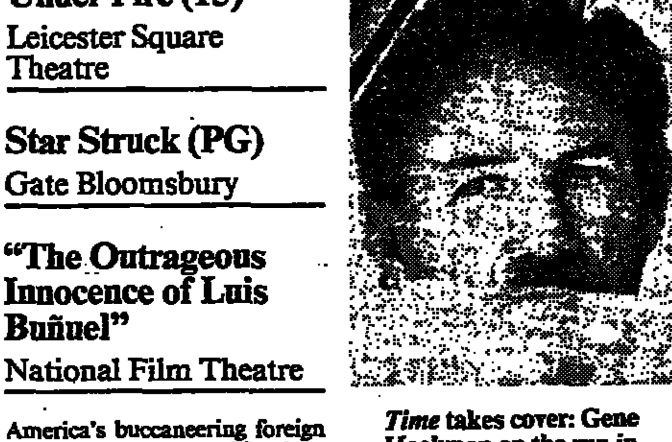
The recurrent preoccupation of these films with modern political backgrounds – others are Peter Weir's *The Year of Living Dangerously* and Volker Schloendorff's *Circle of Deceit* – is the role of the neutral reporter, or, rather, the impossibility of staying uncommitted at the centre of these bloody bits of history. Here Nick Nolte is the essential voyeur, the photo-reporter. Moving from one trouble spot (Chad) to another, he finds himself with the same travelling circus of compatriots, a *Time* features man (Gene Hackman), a radio commentator (Joanna Cassidy) and an ubiquitous mercenary (Ed Harris). A more metaphorical representative of the American position is the advertising man dedicated to the job of giving a more flattering public image to Somoza and his rotting despotism.

In the format of a fast-moving and gripping adventure story, the film also presents a *complex moral drama, in which* the hero's undirected good intentions lead him to a series of betrayals: he betrays his friend, the revolutionaries with whom he discovers sympathy, even his profession. The plot offers a nice irony: while a news photograph that he fakes effects political good, his honest reportages produce only destruction.

In conformity with Hollywood traditions, political events are seen from the viewpoint of the personal drama (but how, in reality, do we ever view politics in which we are actually involved, but from the individual position?). The Latin-American situation is inevitably simplified and fictionalized; but it is not trivialized or shirked. While the film faces the possibility that right or left, Somoza or Sandinista, may in the end only prove alternative tyrannies, it does unequivocally bring the American public some home truths about the dubious alliances that can result from the crusade against the spread *of communism*. The Somoza frying pan in the end looks a lot worse than the Sandinistan fires. The film is a valuable complement to Deborah Shaffer and Tom Sigel's remarkable documentary *Nicaragua: Report* cinemas. Shooting on the spot, Shaffer and Sigel showed the support that the United States is still giving to the revitalized Samoza National Guard (the monsters of *Under Fire*) in their guerrilla war against Sandinista Nicaragua. Seeing these two films together can only stimulate a healthy spirit of enquiry in American audiences; and that is not a bad thing for movies to achieve.

The characters are well rounded: aside from the principals, René Enriques's portrait of Somoza stands out. The dictator is no melodrama despot, but a petty, pompous, self-seeking, nasty little man, hooked on ancestor worship and Miss Panama.

As director, Roger Spottiswoode's previous films have been a Canadian teenage horror, *Terror Train*, which was brighter and less sleazy than the rest, and a salvage job, *The Pursuit of* Bloom, a star in his field, and cut Karel Reisz's *The Gambler* and *Dog Soldiers*, another film about the relation of people and politics, gravely undervalued on its first appearance.





***Time* takes cover: Gene Hackman on the run in *Under Cover*, and the joyous climax of *Star Struck*, with Jo Kennedy as the *18-year-old former barmaid* lowered in triumph on to the stage of the Sydney Opera House**



On first seeing the Australian teen musical **Star Struck** I thought it rather silly. At second viewing it is still silly, but very likable – partly for that very silliness. It is a fairy tale, with an uncompromisingly realistic setting. The heart of its world is a rather grimy old pub (which seems to be a real place) tucked at one end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Three generations of the family that run it argue volubly while endeavouring to make ends meet in this Australian reply to The Rover's Return.

The youngest generation, however, have their dreams. *Eighteen-year-old Jackie wants* to be pop star; and her 14-year-old cousin Angus (Ross O'Donovan, a Pinocchio lookalike) appoints himself her manager and spends his time thinking up outrageous publicity schemes like a topless wirewalk (with fake big breasts) over the Sydney streets and hijaking the Opera House. Other novelties are a boys-only aquatic ballet in the Busby Berkeley manner.

This bumptious lark is a far cry from the literary period-piece *My Brilliant Career*, which was Gillian Armstrong's previous film as director, though it does share the same keen affection for adolescent ambition. The special attractions of *Star Struck* are its unremitting vitality; the pawky dialogue, by Stephen MacLean (without raising her eyes from the cold buffet Granny informs a customer, who remarks on Jackie's nice legs, "they ain't on the menu"); and irrepressible *kindliness – a quality not to be* spurned in the age of *Scarface* and *Sudden Impact*.

To coincide with the posthumous publication of Luis Buñuel's funny, malicious, innocent, self-revelatory autobigraphy *My Last Breath*, the National Film Thratre is presenting an almost complete retrospective of his works from 1928 and the scandalous *Un Chien Andalou*.

Still to come (Tuesday, 6.15), and worth seeking out as another rarity, is his 1953 film *Abismos de pasion*, a transposition of *Wuthering Heights* to Mexico. Emily Brontë was a talisman for the surrealists; Buñuel was handicapped by his actors and lack of resources but, incorruptible surrealist as he was, evoked in some magical moments *the surrealist ecstasy* of *amour fou*.

Nor should the chance be missed to re-view the majestic 1952 *Robinson Crusoe* included in BBC2's celebration of Buñuel tomorrow – or his last film, *That Obscure Object of Desire*, the realization of an old dream of filming another favourite text of the surrealists, Pierre Louys's *La Femme et le pantin*. It is to be hoped not too many people are put off by the NFT's retitling of the films. Whimsically, they have translated long-familiar titles like *Subida al cielo*, *Cela s'appelle l'aurore* and *Illusion viaja en tranvia*. Buñuel was so good with titles that they are evocative even when you do not know the meaning. *Mexican Busride*, *That's Called Dawn* and *The Runaway Streetcar* do not sound half as

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Imperial poised to expand its empire

By Jonathan Clare

The Imperial Group expects to make acquisitions among embryonic industries which are completely unrelated to its traditional core businesses of tobacco, brewing foods and restaurants.

Mr Geoffrey Kent, who has chaired the company for the last two-and-a-half years and seen its return to blue-chip status, said yesterday that the operating subsidiaries had been asked to suggest possible acquisitions both in their own fields and elsewhere. But he added that he did not expect Imps to make a "significant" acquisition during the current year and that investment in unrelated industries would of limited.

He also said that Courage, Imps' brewing subsidiary, had not asked if it could make an offer for Tollemache & Cobbold, the unquoted East Anglian brewery.

Imps' plans for future growth follow a spakling set of full-year results with profits of £195.3m pretax against £154.3m. They stem from stable cigarettes sales, good brewing results and signs of improvement at Howard Johnson, the troublesome American motel and restaurant chain.

Mr Kent said the BAT Industries' partial withdrawal from the British cigarette market, announced last week, would help Imps and others in the industry, but it was unclear by how much.

Mr Kent said "One of the main BAT marketing strategies since 1978 has been discounting, with the result that margins for the industry have been depressed. If its distributor now abandons that policy it could benefit the industry as a whole."

The tobacco market has been stable for the last 15 months – the first real stability for seven years – after a small duty increase in the last Budget and higher descretionarty spending.

Courage's market share of 9 per cent is the highest ince its acquisition in 1972, largely through the success of Hofmeister Lager, Courage Best Bitter and take-home sales.

This year Courage will have an unusually high level of capital spending to upgrade many of its pubs – a strategy now adopted by most of the big brewers. The brewing division, which made £71.6m aagainst £58.5m was also helped by the new Reading brewery where profits are running above the original budget.

The final dividend has been increased by 12.2 per cent and is seen as a signal of further steady growth in both profits and dividends. The sares rose 2p to 154p. But Mr Kent admitted that HoJo would take time to turn round to the point "where it is making the returns I want."

Investment trusts

It is almost eight years since Britain's investment trust companies realized that they really had to take some individual and concerted action to counter their low status on the stock market, which was reflected in shares selling at a discount of a quarter or more on the balance sheet net asset values of their portfolois. Today, the average discount is around 23 per cent at the lower end of the recent range, writes Graham Searjeant.

Given the enormous amount of effort expended in the meantime, City cynics may take a less than excited view about the prospects for the latest effort of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, representing some £13 billion of funds. It is mounting a £650,000 advertising and public relations effort through Geers Gross West.

The very nature of this campaign, a generic one showing the achievements of investment companies as a whole, demonstrates the sector's big problem. Companies cannot market their shares like the unit trusts managers do or advertise much more than formal accounting statements of their achievements.

Stock market investment also remains a complexity to those who do not want to take a day-to-day interest in their investment and for them, unit trusts seem a lot less bother.

The new capaign will try to counter this head on. But, while it may be hard to tackle the intrinsic marketing problems, there is no doubt that the companies have plent to commend thas investment vehicles.

Last year, for instance, international spread helped the companies to a 29.6 per cent average rise in net asset value compared with a 23 per cent average rise for the British stock market. This is, on the whole, a slightly better performance than unit trusts.

Of the companies reporting yesterday, both Morgan Grenfell's Anglo-American Securities and Baring's Tribune Investment Trust fared even better with gains of more than a third.

This means that those who do buy are, on the whole, buying good value for money. An investor looking for yield, for instance, can find what he wants on a better class of portfolio, thanks to the discount.

The many developments of recent years may not have raised status but haver sharpened profitable takeovers. And if high streets are ever lined with investment shops, the trust companies' time will have come.

Stock market report, page 20

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MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Enter a third force in money broking

A third force in international money broking, dominated by the two London-based firms, Mercantile House and Exco International, is rising from the ashes of the old Charles Fulton empire that collapsed at the beginning of 1982. Quietly, and with the minimum of fuss, a deal has been struck in New York that turns Charles Fulton (UK), into the third largest money brokers in America and is the first step in a dynamic young team's attempt to re-create a worldwide broking operation.

On January 5 the Charles Fulton team successfully completed 18 months of negotiations to take over Maybon, Nugent and Godsell, New York's largest traders in US government stocks. The deal was difficult to conclude because Exco International held 25 per cent. Working for the Fulton team was the fact that the young dealers in Maybon wanted to pull out, not only from Exco but from the control of the "old men" running the American company.

Mr Ron Valance, the finance director at Charles Fulton, refused to disclose how much was paid (in the "tens of millions of pounds") but did say that the dealers at Maybon now own a significant slice of the equity of the combined group. A diversification into financial services is the next stage.

The story began in March 1982 when Charles Fulton started losing money in some of its operations. It was then owned by Gill & Duffus, the commodity dealers, with 44 per cent, some funds in the Robert Fleming stable which held 11 per cent, and chief executive Mr Stephen O'Brien. An attempted £7m management buy-out failed because Gill & Duffus insisted on a quick sale. Mercantile House's £6.5m cash offer was accepted. Mercantile was ruthless in making the business conform to its thinking.

By May 1982 Mercantile was finding it increasingly difficult to hold the operation together. Staff were leaving "in droves" or demanding the right to buy themselves out. The first division to gain its freedom was Mr Robin Packshaw's for £700,000. The Middle-East operation, where local Arab interests had a stake, was bought out. In July 1982 Mr Bob Phelan and his team of dealers bought out the Hongkong, Singapore and Malaysian businesses. Mercantile had to let go the profitable parts of Charles Fulton for a total £5.5m, a million less than they paid for the whole group. Mercantile however had succeeded in insuring that the departed divisions were separate and unlikely to come together into a "new" Charles Fulton to compete with Mercantile.

Yet in 18 months the business and dealers have regrouped. The company now has direct lines to all the British local authorities, deals for two of the clearers and has an impressive corporate client list that include the leading insurance companies. industrial groups and building societies.

The age of those involved is material. Mr Valance, in his late thirties, and Mr Packshaw are considered the old men of the firm. The rest are in their twenties and early thirties. They begin work at 7am and have a strong will to succeed.

"We were a long way behind the two majors and we had to begin closing that gap. This deal in New York successfully does that", Mr Valance believes. The next step is to re-establish a close trading link with Mr Phelan's Far East group, also trading under the Charles Fulton banner.

"They have just negotiated an agreement with the major money brokers in Japan, Yemani, and have now a stronger operation than existed before Mercantile. But that situation is as delicate as the New York deal and could take just as long."

Charles Fulton (UK) needed backers to begin and they materialized in the shape of Wedd, Durlacher Mordaunt, the premier stock jobbers. Wedd now holds about 30 per cent. "This is a people business and dependent on the expertise of its staff; so they have to have the majority interest," Mr Valance said.

A new parent company is being established, Charles Fulton International, which, the London team hope, will also attract the European, predominantly Swiss and Luxembourg.operations back into the fold.

"We paid for the US deal from our own resources – 18 months of dealing profits – and we go for profits, not turnover. We want to keep the margins as high as we can for as long as we can; in other words a very tight rein on costs while we expand,".

And next? "We move into financial services staying as close to our broking expertise as we can. We cannot get into the area of conflicts of interest with our clients, particularly the banks. So we are spending time identifying those areas where our clients do not provide a service. It's a tricky business."

The New York business has been renamed Prebon Money Brokers Inc, specializing in Federal funds, currency deposits and foreign exchange broking. Mr Valance admits to eying a New York stockbroker but is otherwise secretive. "We have to have a world-wide business established as quickly as we can".

Moving forward in rule-book chains

Murmurings of discontent are beginning to filter through to the Stock Exchange Council over rules governing the trading practices of the new international dealing subsidiaries (IDs) of member firms.

Of the six major partnerships to evolve so far from the changing practices of the Stock Exchange, all but two are setting up their own international dealers and pumping in substantial amounts of cash. Operations begin formally on April 1 and for the first time British firms should have a real chance of competing successfully with the major Japanese and American brokerage houses for British institutional overseas business. That business is worth in commissions lost to the London market, an estimated $40m a year.

The major bleat is against the rule that prohibits IDs from dealing in British stocks abroad, in particular American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) of British blue chip companies, which have become a booming sucess.

The problem is a difficult one for the council. IDs can deal as principals, or market makers, and as agents executing the order, so they become the first dual capacity firms in London. As they will not be charging a minimum fixed rate of commission, IDs will be working models of the Stock Exchange that is expected ultimately to emerge from the council's restructuring of the rule book.

While single capacity, the split between market making jobbers and agent brokers, lasts brokers fear they will lose out if IDs are allowed to deal in British equities for overseas clients.

Loan ruling may force BAe to abandon Airbus project

By Our Financial Staff

British Aerospace may be forced to pull out of the Airbus consortium if the Government refuses to give it all the cheap cash it wants to pay off its part in the new A320 version of the Airbus.

The City expects the Government will tell British Aerospace that it will have to go to the private sector to raise half the £437m it needs. This would mean it would be faced with raising expensive cash that it can ill afford and which institutional investors may be reluctant to risk, instead of the cheap loan that the Government could offer. Aerospace is putting £200m of its own resources towards the £640m share it has to put into the project.

A decision is expected soon – probably next week – and some City sources believe that the Government has already spelt out to British Aerospace the options which are available

The company's directors were not available yesterday, but the chairman, Sir Austin Pearce, threatened before Christmas to pull out of the A320 deal unless he received government backing.

Lord Rockley of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which brought British Aerospace back to the private sector three years ago, said: "As far as we are concerned the Government and the company are still talking. Your guess is as good as mine as to when this matter will be resolved."

However, he preferred not to comment on whether the company had put out feelers in the City to see whether £200m or more could be raised and he said that it would be wrong for *The Times* to make any assumptions.

The Department of Trade and Industry said that the possibility of raising private cash was an option that had been considered and added that it was normal for the Government to provide only 50 per cent of "launch aid" for such projects.

Rolls-Royce has received only 50 per cent aid for a new engine which could be used to power the A320.

The likelihood of British Aerospace having to put up half the cash it needs has already been reflected in the share price, now 217p compared with a high of 258p.

One view expressed strongly in the City yesterday was that it would be better if the Government did only offer half the cash British Aerospace wants, encouraging the company to pull out of the project. One analyst said: "If they walk away from this deal it would be a sound commercial decision which will win them a lot of friends."

If British Aerospace opted to raise the cash it could try a rights issue which would be unpopular with shareholders or it could make a loan agreement with City backers which would be expensive. One possibility is that a private sector loan could have a profit sharing element built into it so that those who put up the money would shoulder some of the risk. But it is difficult to identify many backers who would accept such terms.

British Aerospace does have £550m bank facilities but has already said they are committed

The big worry for potential private sector backers is that very few manufacturers have made money out of large jetliner programmes. Forecasts about the the potential market have never been right and backers for A320 are looking 10 years ahead.



"Tiny" Rowland : dreaming of Harrods

Lonrho reports 50% rise in profits

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho, the international trading group, yesterday reported a 50 per cent increase in pretax profits to £113.2m on a turnover barely changed at £2.2 billion.

The final dividend is lifted 1p to 6p but the total for the year to September 30 remains unchanged at 9p. Lonrho is paying a special 1p dividend on April 5 and says it is for the current year.

In a statement accompanying the figures, Lonrho, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, said that there had been a 78 per cent increase in earnings from the United Kingdom, that cash in the bank totalled £109m and that trading in the past five months had been good enough for him to feel confident that profits would rise again this year.

The shares added 2p to 130p before easing to close at 129p, near the year's best.

But amid the confident statements, some analysts gave a warning that these milestones had been seen before: the dividend had not been lifted despite a 103 per cent increase in attributable profits, and the pretax profit levels had been reached in 1981 and were below the £119m record of 1980.

Lonrho refuses to detail the individual contributions from its seven trading divisions.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said: "We have now finished rationalizing the business. Of the loss-makers we have sold Hadfields (the steel company) to the Government, we closed the *Sunday Standard* newspaper and we have turned around the motor distributors Dutton Forshaw."

Still unrecycled is the group's near 30 per cent shareholding in the House of Fraser Stores group, with which it has had an acrimonious relationship for most of the six years the stake has been held.

Recent speculation has suggested that Lonrho may sell its stake to a bidder of the House of Fraser and then buy back the Harrods flagship on which Mr Rowland has set his sights. Mr Spicer said: "We're not saying anything about that."

Assets of Brick put at £300m

By Jeremy Warner

The net assets of London Brick are worth £300m or 215p a share, Mr Jeremy Rowe, the chairman, disclosed yesterday as part of the company's campaign against an unwanted £212m takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

The disclosure was forced out of London Brick after two days of heated argument with the Takeover Panal, and Hanson Trust regards the release of the asset revaluation at this stage of the takeover battle as a tactcal victory.

London Brick had been hoping to hold the valuation, a key part of its defence, in reserve, with a forecast of dividends for this year for use if Hanson once more raised its bid.

But the Panel persuaded London Brick to issue the information earlier than planned.

London Brick's shares closed on the stock market 2p higher at 155p. This comapres with Hanson's bid of 145p a share in cash.

Hanson claimed that if the new valuation were incorporated in the company's balance sheet, it could significantly harm future years profits and undermine the forecast of profits of £36m that the company has already made for this year because of extra depreciation and charges.

But London Brick said the valuation would not be put into the balance sheet, and that in any case the effect on profits would be minimal.

Fisons pays $50m for US foothold

By Our Financial Staff

Fisons, the pharmaceutical concern, yesterday made its first purchase of an American equipment company. The group paid $50m (about £35m) for net assets and goodwill of Scimed International and its operating company, Curtin Matheson Scientific Inc.

Fisons paid cash for the company, a subsidiary of Coulter Electronics Inc., a US group, by placing almost five million new shares in the London market yesterday at 725p a share. Fisons price in the market eased 18p to 744p.

Curtin Matheson is a leading distributor to the $2 billion US health care market supplying a wide range of clinical laboratory products, instruments and diagnostic agents. Under the agreement, Curtin remains exclusive US distributor of most Coulter products.

Curtin Matheson's pre-tax profits for the 12 months to the end of last March were $6.5m on sales of $220m. Profits this year are likely to run at about £10m.

The group has $35m of debt which Fisons is taking on to the balance sheet, lifting its gearing from zero to between 10 and 12 per cent.

Although it is a significant purchase, close observers of the company say this is not the major acquisition which has been expected for some time.

● **Walter Lawrence** is buying Tricom Supplies, a builders' and plumbers' merchant, from Combined Technology Corporation for £2.5m.

Dollar steadies

The dollar fell sharply in New York and the Far East overnight on Wednesday, before steadying yesterday in Europe. At one stage, it sank to DM 2.7270, before closing in London at DM 2.7340, 1.85 pfennigs lower on the day.

Dealers said confidence in the US currency was fading following the strictures of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, earlier this week on America's overdependence on foreign capital. The pound finished trading in London just over a cent up at $1.4230.

The FT Index closed at 801.3 yesterday, a fall of 3.7 points.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 801.3 down 3.7
FT Gilts: 82.37 unchanged
FT All Share: 481.26 down 4.98
Bargains: 23,513
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 102.45 down 0.9
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1159.13 up 2.83
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,001.54 down 98.05
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,090.08 down 11.29

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4230 up 1.05 cents
Index 81.7 up 0.2
DM 3.89 down 0.0050
FrF 11.9575 up 0.0075
Yen 332.75 up 1.75
Dollar
Index 129.8 down 0.6
DM 2.7340 down 0.0185
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4175
Dollar DM 2.7395
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.577397
SDR £0.734512

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9⅟₁₆-9
3 month interbank 9⁷⁄₁₆-9⅜
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9¹³⁄₁₆-9¹⁵⁄₁₆
3 month DM 5⅞-5¾
3 month Fr F15⅛-15
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⅜
Treasury long bond 101-101⅛

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $383.80 pm $383.00
close $382.25-383.75 (£269.25-269.75)
New York latest: $378.75
Krugerrand* (per coin): $394.50-396 (£277.25-278.25)
Sovereigns* (new): $90-91 (£63.25-64)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Competition for $150m Soviet loan

European and Japanese bankers are competing to lend to the Soviet Union. Banks, including Lloyds Bank International, are expected to announce today how much the £150m loan is over-subscribed.

Sixteen banks had offered by Wednesday $160m but that figure had been "very comfortably" beaten yesterday. The success of the loan is all the more remarkable because of the absence of American banks, which have been priced out by the high US interest rates.

The Russians had refused to price part of the loan over the US prime rate. They spent three months negotiating ⅜ percentage point over the London interbank rate, although lenders' pressure for high fees and a stricter repayment schedule have effectively raised it to ¾ over Libor.

The loan signals the re-opening of markets for good Comecon risks and some banks believe that Czechoslovakia may now be tempted to follow with an offering of its own.

● Señor Humberto Calderon Berti, president of the state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, had resigned and has been replaced by Señor Brigido Natera, a veteran oil industrialist.

● STC telecommunications and Texacan Corporation of the United States have formed a joint company to market cable television systems products in Britain.

● Mr Michael Posner, the former chairman of the Social Science Research Council, is to become economics director of

WALL STREET

Further falls in share prices

New York – Share prices opened sharply and broadly lower in active trading on Wall Street yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3.98 to 1,152.32

Analysts expect the heavy selling which erupted late on Wednesday to continue

Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, both warned on Wednesday the US could slip into a recession if the Government does not cut the Federal budget deficit.

French coal losses soar

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The French state-owned coal industry has followed the National Coal Board and announced an increase in losses with a warning of pit closures and job losses.

The French coal industry last year lost Fr750m (£63m), up from Fr115m in 1982. However, losses from its chemicals operation mean that losses of the group, Charbonnages de France, last year could total Fr2.1 billion.

The losses have been announced before a meeting between the group's management and unions, at which coal output targets for this year will be set and job losses discussed.

Forecasts that up to 4,000 jobs will be lost from the 56,000 workforce are seen in France as an underestimate in view of the new loss figures.

The NCB will need another £80m of government support if the miners' overtime ban goes on until the end of next month. Although the NCB is making a slight cash saving during the ban because of the reduction in costs of holding stocks, its policy of listing mined output as income on its profit and loss accounts will have an adverse effect on its annual accounts to be published in April which will have to be met by the Government.

Study warns against low-value specialization

UK 'at economic turning point'

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The United Kingdom is near, if not at, a moment of truth in respect of its relative economic decline, according to a 260-page study on structural adjustment in British Industry released by the International Labour Organization yesterday.

It calls for leadership from government to help industry in long-range planing and innovation, particularly in new technologies, and increased technical education and training.

Britain's virtual specialization in low-value products will, the study says, "increasingly putit into competition with low-wage but increasingly productive Third World countries.

In textiles, for example, Britain opted for the mass-market strategy, tackling developing countries' imports head-on, while West German, Swedish and Swiss specialized in the up-market end of the ... Third World test. British washing machine manufacturers stuck to twin tub models while the Italians mmoved into automatics. British car companies failed for a long time to update the model range and found themselves at the lower end of the market.

Industry's main problems, the study stresses, lie in the micro-economic adjustment process: failure to update design, failure to grasp the importance of science and technology to competitiveness and failure to take a long view of the future.

Britain today, it points out, puts proportionately fewer young people through vocational training or higher education than any other country in the industrialized world.

While the study sees signs that the fiercely competitive climate of the last decade is beginning to jog industry in the right direction, more radical measures may be needed in the ... wellbeing is resolving the problem of the "two cultures". The "them and us" attitudes still prevailing.

Working class cultures – "class solidarity coupled with an inveterate hostility towards the rest of society" – was confronted by the public school caste and "differences perpetuated through distinctions between wage earners and salaried staff

The study by Miss Margaret Sharp, Mr Geoffrey Shepherd, both of Sussex European Research Centre and Mr David Marsden of the London School of Economics, says the managerial culture, derived essentially from the aristocratic values of the 18th century, still places low valuation on technological studies with the result that most of those in positions of responsibility in industry, the Civil Service and the City are 'gifted amateurs' . . . with the working class culture equally

US steel action to cut imports

From Bailey Morris
Washington

The US steel industry is to file today the first of a series of complaints over unfair trade, to press its case for global restraints on steel imports, which is being resisted by governments in Europe and the Third World.

Mr David Roderick, chairman of US steel, said up to five new cases would be filed with the Commerce Department, against subsidized imports from Australia, Finland, Sweden and a large number of Third World countries, many of then deeply in debt.

The new cases are seen as the opening round in the domestic industry's campaign to cut imports from Europe and the Third World to 15 per cent of the US market, down sharply from the present level of about 22 per cent.

Britain, the EEC and Third World governments have warned the Reagan Administration that additional new restraints on their steel exports could trigger a trade war.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Industry and Trade, told this to members of the Administration on his first official visit to Washington

US steel companies are already protected from foreign competition by quotas negotiated against Japanese imports and imports from the EEC.

However, the US Administration wants the steel industry to drop its campaign urging Congress to pass protectionist legislation limiting steel imports.

Mr Lionel Olmer, Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, said: "This Administration remains ada-

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs for Willis Faber & Dumas

Willis Faber & Dumas Mr R. N. Bowes has become chairman and Mr R. J. Elliott and Mr D. J. Martin have been made deputy chairmen. Mr R. G. Dixon, Mr M. D. T. Faber, Mr M. A. Hedley and Mr M. C. White have joined the board. Mr D. G. Shaw has been appointed chairman of the group's international division.

Steel Brothers Holdings: Mr Peter Paice has been made an executive director from April 30.

Manson Finance Trust: Mr L. C. Quek has become executive chairman in place of Mr John Mowat who has retired. Mr Quek will also take Mr Mowat's place as chairman of the subsidiaries which include Edward Manson and Company and Manson Factors.

Belstaff International: Mr David Brocklehurst, formerly finance director, has been appointed managing director.

Wardley London: Mr Michael Hamer has joined the boards of Wardley London Holdings and Wardley London. Mr Hamer will be in charge of corporate finance department. Mr Andrew Skinner has been appointed to the board of Wardley London.

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co: Mr Jean Solandt has become a joint vice-chairman. Mr Adam Broadbent, a director of Schroder Wagg, has been appointed head of corporate finance.

Thomson Regional Newspapers: Mr R. Ridley-Thomas, managing director of Aberdeen Journals, is appointed managing director of the Scotsman Publications, Edinburgh, publishers of *The Scotsman* and the *Evening News*. Mr J. A. Logan has been made managing director of Aberdeen Journals, publishers of the *Press & Journal* and the *Evening Express*.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Insurance hit by rumours

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Jan 30. Dealings end, Today. Contango Day, Feb 13. Settlement Day, Feb 20.

A chill wind ran through the big insurance composites yesterday amid rumours that one leading analyst had decided to downgrade profits of Commercial Union for the year.

The rumours proved unfounded, but the composite sector never recovered with CU tumbling 6p to 176p, **General Accident** 8p to 433p, **Guardian Royal Exchange** 4p to 526p, **Phoenix Assurance** 3p to 438p, **Royal Insurance** 7p to 518p and **Sun Alliance** £3/16 to £13 15/16.

Sentiment was not helped by the details of the cost to property during January's storms. The British Insurance Association has put the cost as high as £70m. It was the worst set of figures for two years when blizzards and flooding cost the insurance companies a cool £250m. The BIA calculates CU will have to fork out about £10m, GRE £8m, Royal 10m to £12m and Sun Alliance about £11m. Broker Wood Mackenzie says these figures are way below that of 1982, but will still make a significant impact on first quarter figures from the composites.

The Lloyd's insurance brokers fared little better. **Stewart Wrightson** lost 8p at 315p, **Willis Faber** 3p at 689p, **C.E. Heath** 4p at 351p and **Hogg Robinson** 3p at 163p. **Minet Holdings** ended the day 1p shy at 143p, after 142p, as a line of 300,000 shares that had been overhanging the market was finally cleared.

Broker Montagu, Loebl Stanley reckons any self-respecting oil portfolio is not complete without "substantial long term holdings" in Clyde Petroleum. Sales of its non-oil interests have left the group with a stong balance sheet to cope with the sector's risk/return and developments – including farm-ins and Wytch Farm – could result in a significant re-rating. The shares lost 2p to 121p.

Elsewhere, the jobbers decided to again call prices sharply lower following Wall Street's worst performance for over 15 months with the Dow Jones average plunging 24 points. But prices did recover and the *FT* Index closed only 3.7 down at 801.3 having been 15.4 off earlier in the day.

Conditions were described as tense with investors clearly in no mood to open new positions with just two days of the account left to run.

One dealer complained the market had spent more time watching events in New York than conducting its own business: "All the way up we ignored Wall Street, but now the bubble has burst we hang on to every move downwards", he said.

Among blue chips **Boots** slid 5p to 169p as a line of 1.5 million shares went through the market first thing at the 165p level. There was a vendor placing of 4.9 million shares in **Fisons** completed by broker Hoare Govett at 725p a share to raise £35m for its latest US acquisition. Fisons lost 18p at 744p.

Losses were also seen in **Allied-Lyons** 1p to 149p, **Associated Dairies** 4p to 144p, **BICC** 7p to 258p, **Blue Circle Industries** 6p to 420p, **Bowater** 4p to 262p, **Courtaulds** 3p to 134p, **GEC** 4p to 178p, **GKN** 3p to 193p, **Hawker Siddeley** 4p 404p, **ICI** 4p to 592p, **Marks & Spencer** 3p to 220p, **P & O Deferred** 3p to 264p, **Plessey** 4p to 204p, **TI Group** 4p to 202p and **Trusthouse Forte** 3p to 201p.

Only a few managed to resist the trend such as **BTR** rising 3p to 417p, **Cadbury Scheweppes** 1p to 123p, **Grand Metropolitan** 5p to 338p, **Imperial Group** 2p to 154p, after figures, and **Thorn-EMI** 2p to 616p. Glaxo managed to close all square at 755p.

The gilt-edged market gave up 25p at the longer end of the market with the Chancellor's optimistic remarks about the economy making little impact. The new tap £1,000m of Exchequer 9¾ 1998 opened at a discount in first time dealings as had been widely predicted. It closed 5p lower at £24½ in its partly paid form.

There was renewed speculative support for **Ladbroke**, up 7p at 243p. The market is eagerly awaiting news of a bid – possibly from **Bass** unchanged at 305p. Both companies were unavailable for comment.

Lonrho, another company tipped as a likely suitor for **Ladbroke**, closed 1p up at 129p after revealing pretax profits up from £75m to £113.2m. But the takeover talk in **Grattan**, the mail order group, appears to have died down for the time being as the shares slipped 4p to 78p, at one stage, before recovering to 76p, a net loss on the day of 2p.

British Home Stores' two new assistant managing directors, Mr Dennis Cassidy and Mr James Power, have been visiting brokers' offices getting to know the City and explaining the group's strategy. Broker Grieveson Grant is now looking for an increase in pretax profits this year from £49m to £58m followed by £65m next year. On a p/e of 16, the shares look underrated compared with Marks & Spencer on a p/e of 22. The shares slipped 2p to 222p.

The leading high street banks appeared mixed at the close with **Barclays Bank** climbing 5p to 517p and **National Westminster** 8p to 717p, but **Lloyds Bank** closed unchanged at 549p and **Midland** lost 5p at 392p. **Royal Bank of Scotland** slipped 6p to 212p and **Bank of Scotland** lost 5p to 640p.

The discount houses lost ground in line with the rest of the market as **Alexanders Discount** eased 3p to 399p, **Cater Allen Holdings** 5p to 453p, **Gerrard & National** 3p to 299p, **Jessel Toynbee** 1p to 84p, **King & Shaxson** 1p to 127p, **Seccombe Marshall** 5p to 265p and **Union Discount** 5p to 698p.

Oil shares recovered from a hesitant start to close mostly higher on the day in thin conditions. **Burmah** stood out with a rise of 8p to 189p, after 176p. **Anvil** rose 3p to 86p, **Dome Petroleum** 10p to 250p, **Hunting Petroleum** 2p to 154p, **KCA Drilling** 2p to 36p and **Berkeley Exploration** 1p to 121p.

Once again most of the attention was turned to those companies North Sea oil interests. The big groups were given the cold shoulder. **BP** slipped 2p to 431p. **Britoil** was unchanged at 233p, after 228p, **Lasmo** was down 13p to 308p, **Shell** 20p to 598p and **Ultramar** 17p to 642p. **Tricentrol** also fell 7p to 196p on news of the retrenchment of its US interests. Among the Irish oil explorers **Aran Engegy** rose 4p to 73p. **Atlantic Resources** 20 to 558p and **Bula Resources** 2p to 27p.

Shares of **Walter Lawrence** slipped 2p to 230p following a vendor placing of 1.2 million shares by broker Hoare Govett. There was a similar placing of 3 million shares in **Sunlight Services**, down 10p at 210p, in order to finance the group purchase of its shares in **Spring Grove**.

Stores group **A. Caird** rose 2p to 50p after hours following the news **Panther Securities**, a privately-owned investment compnay, had sold its 5 per cent stake, amounting to 165,000, to an unknown buyer outside the market.

Brewery shares had a few bright spots with **Matthew Brown** rising 2p to 210p.

Half-time profits up by 28% at Dale

On turnover less than 2 per cent greater at £19.44m, pretax profits of Dale Electric International climbed by 28 per cent to £1.3m in the half-year to October 30. The interim payment, net, is being lifted from 1.2p to 1.5p a share.

The board explains that more selective turnover, improved control of costs and prices have enabled all group companies to operate firmly in profit, including the associate in Mexico, now returned to profit.

In the 1970s, Dale pretax profits were over the £3m mark. By 1982-83, they had fallen to £1.9m. But the board now feels that the corner has been turned and the road to recovery is well in sight.

In brief

● Walter Lawrence: An upturn in the fortunes of builders merchants has led Walter Lawrence to take over Tricom Supplies, a subsidiary of Combined Technologies.

Lawrence has paid for the deal by issuing 1.17 million new shares to Combined Technologies which has had them placed by Hoare Govett in the market.

Tricom is based predominantly in the Midlands and north, while Lawrence is active in the south.

● Akroyd & Smithers, one of London's two premier jobbers, announces that Viscount Garmoyle and Mr Oscar Lewisohn, from S. G. Warburg, have joined the board as non-executive directors. The banker and jobber formed an alliance last year.

● London Shop Property Trust: Half-year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Propety revenue 3,357 (2,763). Pretax profit 2,373 (1,946). Interim payment up from 1.5p to 2 net a share to reduce disparity between payments.

● Drayton Far Eastern Trust: Year to Dec 31, 1983. Revenue, after all charges, £147,000 (£137,000). Total dividend unchanged at 0.85p net a share.

● William Ransom and Sons: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Interim payment unchanged at 1.5p. Figures in £000. Turnover 1,667 (1,479). Pretax profit 143 (65). Tax 74 (34). Earnings per share 4.57p (2.08p). If there is no slackening in demand in Feb and March, the board expects the second half-year to produce profits similar to or slightly in excess of those for the same period last year.

● Plastic Constructions: Total dividend for year to Sept. 30, 1983, up from 2.17p to 2.38p net a share. Turnover £10.74m (£9.28). Pretax profits up from £91,000 to £249,000. Tax £16,000 (credit of £71,000 last time). Chairman believes Plastic Constructions is emerging from the depressed period of the last two years. Sales for the first quarter of the current year indicate that the company can expect significant increases in turnover and profit for the full year, subject to the continuation of the improved business climate.

● Equity Capital for Industry: Two investments totalling £250,000 are to be made by Equity Capital for Industry. In the first, ECI and British Tar Products are each providing £150,000 second round finance for Neo Plants, a Lancashire-based company engaged in plant tissue culture, in return for 25 per cent equity stakes.

In the second ECI is acquiring a 16 per cent holding in Combustion Developments, a Derbyshire-based instrumentation company, and is providing £100,000 of second round finance.

Now Cable has eyes on China

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Mr Eric Sharp, chairman of Cable & Wireless, confirmed yesterday that a key factor behind his company's bid for the Hongkong Telephone Company was its desire to expand its operations in China.

"I have no doubt that opportunities will occur (in China) and they will be facilitated by our takeover of the telephone company," he said in Hongkong. The new opportunities would not just be confined to Guandong province, where Cable & Wireless has already signed two joint ventures with the Chinese Government in the last 18 months.

Another Cable & Wireless director, Mr Brian Pemberton, said that the company would also be seeking to change the scheme of control under which Hongkong Telephone operates.

Under the scheme approved by the Hongkong Government, the company's profits are limited to a 16 per cent return on shareholders' funds after taxation. "We feel that it is an overly tight scheme of control and could be relaxed", Mr Pemberton said.

The board of Hongkong Telephone is advising its shareholders to hang on to their shares as an investment, even though Cable & Wireless has successfully raised its stake

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
March	906-69
April	908-80
Apl-Jun	890-87
Jul/Sep	909-08
Oct/Dec	923-18
Jan/Mar	937-30
Apl/Jun	950-43
Jul/Sep	959-54
Oct/Dec	978-70
Vol:	97
SUGAR	
March	184.00-184.40
May	189.40-189.40
Oct	206.40-198.60
Dec	213.20-206.60
March	228.00-213.40
May	235.00-229.00
COCOA	
March	1851-48
May	1844-42
July	1829-27
Sep	1812-10
Dec	1790-86
March	1779-75
May	1775-55
Vol:	5,610
COFFEE	
March	2080-2079
May	1935-1933
July	1866-1866
Sep	1825-1824
Nov	1795-1792
Jan	1765-1760
March	1743-1740
Vol:	4,061
GAS OIL	
Feb	244.25-244.00
March	243.50-243.00
April	239.50-239.25
May	236.00-235.00
June	235.75-238.50
July	237.50-236.25
Aug	241.50-236.50
Sep	244.00-237.00
Oct	247.00-237.00
Vol: 1,927	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce.
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	982.50-983.50
Three months	1004.00-1005.00
T/O	6,850
Tone: Barely steady.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	970.00-972.00
Three months	992.00-992.50
T/O	100
Tone: Quiet.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8548-8560
Three months	8688-8692
T/O:	340
Tone: Steady	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8595-8600
Three months	8720-8725
T/O:	50
Tone: Quiet.	
LEAD	
Cash	287.50-288.00
Three months	296.50-296.75
ZINC	
Cash	716.00-717.00
Three months	710.00-710.50
T/O:	2,700
Tone: Steady	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	627.5-628.5
Three months	641.0-643.0
T/O:	11
Tone: Quiet.	
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	627.5-628.5
Three months	641.0-643.0
T/O:	nil
Tone: Idle	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1057.50-1058.50
Three months	1084.50-1085.50
T/O:	9,050
Tone: Easier.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3275-3280
Three months	3363-3384
T/O:	672
Tone: Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US$ per oz.

Feb	383-383.50
April	388.30-388.40
June	394.60-398.10
Aug	401.30-402.00
Oct	408.50-409.40
Dec	415-417
Vol:	485
Tone: Easier.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	30	4291
Jun'84	–	4329
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Stable.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	226	1.4240
Jun'84	61	1.4260
Sep'84	–	1.4280
Comment: Better.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	126	3671
Jun'84	4	3707
Sep'84	–	3741
Comment: Improving.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	20	4538
Jun'84	11	4606
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Quiet.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	1621	9024
Jun'84	785	8980
Sep'84	105	8949
Dec'84	82	8921
Mar'85	13	8894
Comment: Steady.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	220	9072
Jun'84	170	9042
Sep'84	5	9020
Dec'84	–	9006
Mar'85	–	8996
Comment: Quiet.		
GILTS		
Mar'84	3433	10725
Jun'84	78	10701
Sep'84	36	10616
Dec'84	–	10601
Mar'85	–	10518
Comment: Steady		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on August 23:
GB: Cattle, 92.87p per kg lw (+0.09).
GB: Sheep, 118.40p per kg est d c w (+3.76).
GB: Pigs, 66.26p per kg lw (–0.60).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. up 8.5 per cent, ave. price, 92.78p (+0.02).
Sheep nos. down 0.6 per cent, ave. price, 117.26p (+3.02).
Pig nos. up 5.1 per cent, ave. price, 66.59p (–0.70).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 8.3 per cent, ave. price, 93.18p (+0.34).
Sheep nos. up 3.1 per cent, ave. price, 110.82p (+5.97).
Pig nos. down 9.4 per cent, ave. price, 71.68p (+1.67).

London Grain Futures Market

Month	WHT A Close	WHT B Close	BARLEY Close
Mar	–	£12090	£11848
May	–	£12270	£11960
Jly	–	£12400	–
Sep	£11260	£10950	£10605
Nov	£11565	£11240	£10905
Jan	£11865	£11520	£11190

Total lots traded
Wheat A, Nil
Wheat B, 812.
Barley: 286.

Taddale launches £7.9m hotels bid

By Jeremy Warner

Taddale Investments yesterday launched a £7.9m takeover bid for Prince of Wales Hotels, the Southport company it has been stalking since June when it bought a 16.5 per cent stake.

The offer was combined by J. Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank which advises Prince of Wales, as "unacceptable, inadequate and lacking in all credibility", and looks about to provoke a bitter war of words.

Mr Arnold Clayman, the Prince of Wales chairman, was described as "a yesterday's man with yesterday's ideas who should not be running a company like this," by Mr Michael Carlton, Taddale's deputy chairman.

Mr Clayman retorted by drawing attention to the fact that Taddale, whose shares are traded on the over-the-counter market operated by Harvard Securities, was recently refused a quote by the Stock Exchange.

Taddale said in a statement accompanying its 130p-a-share cash offer that if it gained control it would bring in two men described as "very experienced" in hotel management, to run the company. But Prince of Wales, which owns the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool, dismissed the two as "totally unknown" in the hotel industry.

The offer is being made conditional on shareholders voting at a meeting on Monday against the company's plans to raise £2.7m through a rights issue to help with the cost of buying the St George's Hotel in London. The meeting is likely to be adjourned to allow shareholders the chance to chose between the bid and the board's rival plans for the company.

Taddale intends to preserve the Prince of Wales share quote by placing around 40 per cent of the company's shares back with institutional investors once it has acquired the company.

On the stock market Prince of Wales shares jumped 18p to 136p. This is above the level of the Taddale bid.

Horne poised for quote on USM

By Michael Clark

Robert Horne Group, the paper merchant, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market this month and is asking investors to subscribe for two classes of shares.

The group is planning to offer 1.8 million shares in units of one ordinary share and one non-voting "A" share, representing 12.5 per cent of the issued share capital. The offer price has yet to be agreed, but with the shares on a price/earnings ratio of between 11 and 13, the price is likely to be pitched at about the 80p level.

No new money will be raised by the issue, and the shares are being offered by existing shareholders, including the Horne family, County Bank and Investors in Industry.

After the sale the Horne family will continue to own about 55 per cent of the remaining equity.

It is only the second time that investors have been offered two different classes of shares on the USM and highlights the Horne Group's complicated share structure, which includes at least four different types of shares.

The business was founded by the family in 1925 and now supplies printing companies throughout Britain and Ireland. In the past seven years pretax profits have risen from £1.14m to £4m, on sales up from £36.7m to £86m and the group is now Britain's largest independent paper supplier.

The paper market in Britain swallows up more than 750,000 tonnes a year, excluding newsprint and craft paper, and Horne says it controls about 15 per cent of this market.

At its huge warehouse in Northampton, the group offers about 3,500 different lines, weighing more than 12.5 tonnes, with a value of about £7m. The group also guarantees delivery within 24 hours.

The group with its size and previous track record, would have had little difficulty in applying for a full stock market quote, but the reluctance of its main shareholders to part with anything but the bare minimum meant that the USM was the only course left open to the board. Mr Robin Jones, a director, asked if the group would eventually go for a full listing said: "We will let that take its course. In an ideal world we might have gone for a full listing".

Sunlight buys St George's from takeover rivals

By Wayne Lintott

Laundry and cleaning industry rivals Sunlight Services and Pritchard Services yesterday announced an agreement for Sunlight to buy the St. George's linen hire business from Pritchard.

St. George's was the division of Spring Grove that sustained such large trading losses that Spring Grove was forced into seeking a merger. Pritchard and Sunlight fought a £17m takeover battle for Spring Grove last September. Pritchard won.

Sunlight said that it is paying Pritchard £2.43m over the next three years.

Sunlight also announced two other acquisitions, the Nicholson Group and Smethwick Laundry. Last December Sunlight brought out Security Arrangements. The total consideration for the four deals is £2.25m in cash.

To cover that Sunlight has placed 1,600,000 shares with institutions and intends issuing a further 1,500,000 new ordinary shares at 205p each. The news knocked 10p off Sunlight shares to 210p.

Sunlight also forecast a profit of at least £3.5m for 1983 against £2.81m in 1982 and a final dividend of at least 7.5p against 4.638p the year before.

But Sunlight made its Spring Grove moves to fight off an opportunistic takeover bid fot it made by Brengreen Holdings.

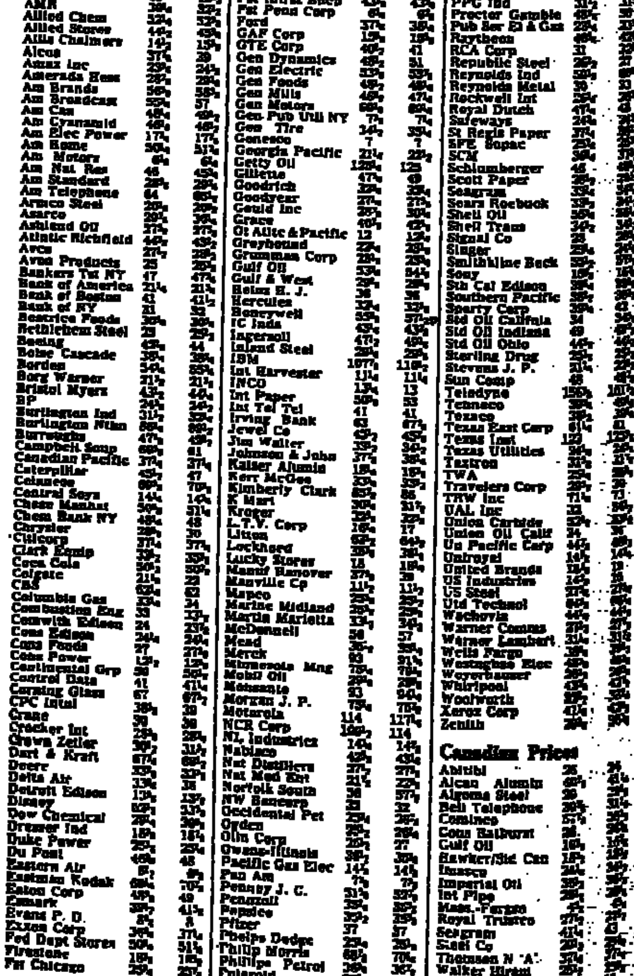
Gleneagles in new dispute

By Our Financial Staff

The Takeover Panel is to be asked to adjudicate again in the bitter takeover battle for Gleneagles Hotels. This time the argument is about whether Arthur Bell & Sons, which is bidding £27m in shares and already has control, should be allowed to make its separate offer for Gleneagles loan stock open to only those who accept the share offer.

Twelve of the company's shareholders were urged yesterday not to accept the Bell bid

WALL STREET



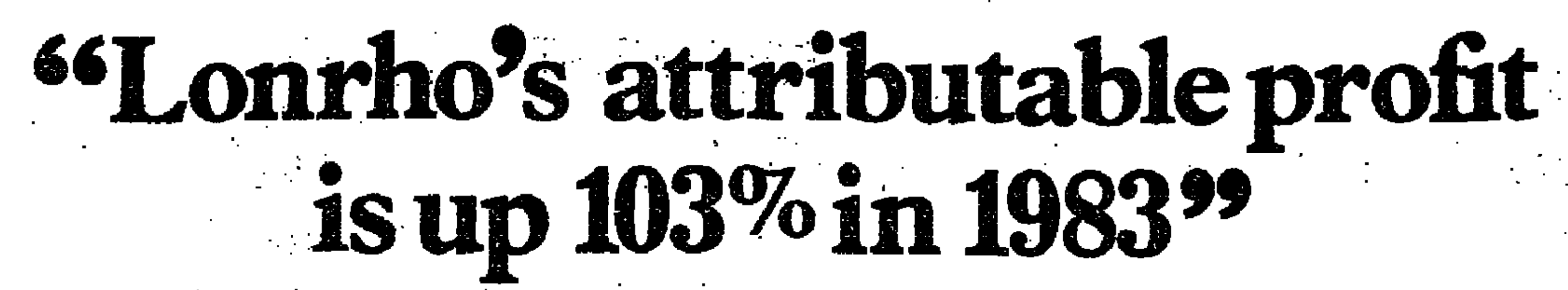
	Feb 8	Feb 7
AMF Inc	15	15
AMR	30	32
Allied Chem	52	52
Allied Stores	44	45
Allis Chalmers	14	15
Alcoa	37	39
Amax Inc	23	24
Amerada Hess	28	28
Am Brands	56	58
Am Broadcast	55	57
Am Can	48	49
Am Cyanamid	48	49
Am Elec Power	17	17
Am Home	50	51
Am Motors	6	6
Am Nat Res	45	45
Am Standard	28	29
Am Telephone	64	65
Armco Steel	20	20
Asarco	29	30
Ashland Oil	27	27
Atlantic Richfield	44	45
Avco	27	28
Avon Products	25	25
Bankers Tst NY	47	47
Bank of America	21	21
Bank of Boston	41	41½
Bank of NY	31	32
Beatrice Foods	30	30
Bethlehem Steel	25	25
Boeing	43	44
Boise Cascade	35	35
Borden	54	55
Borg Warner	21	21
Bristol Myers	43	44
BP	24	24
Burlington Ind	31	33
Burlington Nthn	68	69
Burroughs	47	49
Campbell Soup	60	61
Canadian Pacific	37	37
Caterpillar	45	47
Celanese	69	70
Central Soya	14	14
Chase Manhat	50	51
Chem Bank NY	48	48
Chrysler	28	30
Citicorp	37	37
Clark Equip	33	35
Coca Cola	50	50
Colgate	21	22
CBS	62	62
Columbia Gas	33	34
Combustion Eng	33	33
Comwith Edison	24	25
Cons Edison	24	24
Cons Foods	27	27
Cons Power	12	12
Continental Grp	50	50
Control Data	41	41
Corning Glass	67	67
CPC Intnl	38	39
Crane	39	39
Crocker Int	28	28
Crown Zeller	30	31
Dart & Kraft	67	69
Deere	33	32
Delta Air	33	38
Detroit Edison	13	13
Disney	52	53
Dow Chemical	29	30
Dresser Ind	18	18
Duke Power	25	25
Du Pont	46	48
Eastern Air	6	6
Eastman Kodak	69	70
Eaton Corp	48	49
Emhart	39	41
Evans P. D.	8	8
Exxon Corp	36	37
Fed Dept Stores	50	51
Firestone	18	18
Fst Chicago	25	25

	Feb 8	Feb 7
Fst Intrst Bncp	43	43
Fst Penn Corp	6	6
Ford	37	38
GAF Corp	15	15
GTE Corp	40	41
Gen Dynamics	48	51
Gen Electric	53	53
Gen Foods	48	49
Gen Mills	48	47
Gen Motors	66	65
Gen Pub Util NY	7	7
Gen Tire	34	35
Genesco	7	7
Georgia Pacific	21	22
Getty Oil	125	125
Gillette	47	49
Goodrich	32	33
Goodyear	27	27
Gould Inc	28	30
Grace	40	42
Gt Atlntc & Pacific	12	12
Greyhound	22	23
Grumman Corp	28	28
Gulf Oil	53	54
Gulf & West	29	29
Heinz H. J.	38	38
Hercules	32	32
Honeywell	55	57
IC Inds	43	43
Ingersoll	47	48
Inland Steel	28	29
IBM	107	110
Int Harvester	11	11
INCO	13	13
Int Paper	50	53
Int Tel Tel	41	41
Irving Bank	48	47
Jewel Co	42	42
Jim Walter	33	34
Johnson & John	37	38
Kaiser Alumin	18	18
Kerr McGee	33	33
Kimberly Clark	85	86
K Mart	30	31
Kroger	32	32
L.T.V. Corp	16	17
Litton	62	64
Lockheed	38	38
Lucky Stores	18	18
Manuf Hanover	37	38
Manville Cp	11	11
Mapco	25	25
Marine Midland	28	29
Martin Marietta	33	34
McDonnell	56	57
Mead	36	35
Merck	93	91
Minnesota Mng	75	76
Mobil Oil	29	29
Monsanto	93	94
Morgan J. P.	75	76
Motorola	114	117
NCR Corp	109	114
NL Industries	14	14
Nabisco	42	43
Nat Distillers	27	27
Nat Med Ent	21	22
Norfolk South	58	57
NW Bancorp	32	32
Occidental Pet	23	26
Ogden	26	26
Olin Corp	26	27
Owens-Illinois	30	30
Pacific Gas Elec	14	14
Pan Am	7	7
Penney J. C.	51	52
Pennzoil	35	35
Pepsico	35	35
Pfizer	37	37
Phelps Dodge	23	25
Philip Morris	68	70
Phillips Petrol	36	36
Polaroid	28	29

	Feb 8	Feb 7
PPG Ind	31½	31
Procter Gamble	48	50
Pub Ser El & Gas	23	23
Raytheon	40	42
RCA Corp	31	33
Republic Steel	26	27
Reynolds Ind	58	60
Reynolds Metal	30	33
Rockwell Int	28	28
Royal Dutch	47	48
Safeways	24	25
St Regis Paper	37	38
SFE Sopac	25	26
SCM	36	37
Schlumberger	46	48
Scott Paper	28	29
Seagram	33	34
Sears Roebuck	33	34
Shell Oil	35	36
Shell Trans	34	34
Signal Co	28	28
Singer	23	24
Smithkline Beck	55	57
Sony	16	16
Sth Cal Edison	38	38
Southern Pacific	38	38
Sperry Corp	39	41
Std Oil Califnia	34	34
Std Oil Indiana	49	49
Std Oil Ohio	44	46
Sterling Drug	23	23
Stevens J. P.	21	22
Sun Comp	48	48
Teledyne	150	161
Tenneco	39	40
Texaco	35	36
Texas East Corp	61	61
Texas Inst	122	125
Texas Utilities	24	24
Textron	32	32
TWA	25	26
Travelers Corp	29	30
TRW Inc	71	73
UAL Inc	32	36
Union Carbide	52	53
Union Oil Calif	34	35
Un Pacific Corp	44	45
Uniroyal	14	14
United Brands	13	13
US Industries	14	15
US Steel	27	27
Utd Technol	65	66
Wachovia	37	38
Warner Comms	27	27
Warner Lambert	31	31
Wells Fargo	38	39
Westnghse Elec	42	43
Weyerhauser	30	30
Whirlpool	43	45
Woolworth	33	33
Xerox Corp	41	43
Zenith	30	30
Canadian Prices		
Abitibi	26	26
Alcan Alumin	40	41
Algoma Steel	30	31
Bell Telephone	30	31
Cominco	57	57
Cons Bathurst	26	26
Gulf Oil	16	16
Hawker/Sid Can	18	18
Imasco	34	35
Imperial Oil	35	36
Int Pipe	28	28
Mass.-Fergsn	4	4
Royal Trustco	27	27
Seagram	41	43
Steel Co	28	28
Thomson N 'A'	37	37
Walker Hiram	28	29
WCT	14	15

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

هكذا من الأصل



"Lonrho's attributable profit is up 103% in 1983"

AN UPWARD TREND WILL CONTINUE IN 1984

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

Dear Shareholder,

The overall results of Lonrho show a healthy rise of 103% in both profit attributable to shareholders and earnings per share; this is the highest increase for seventeen years.

Lonrho has achieved an enormous amount this year which is reflected, not only in a substantial increase in profitability, but also in the Group balance sheet which remains strong with gross assets approaching £1.9 billion, including cash balances at the year end standing at £109 million. Total net borrowings, excluding those relating to our confirming businesses, have remained at 30% of gross assets which is the same as last year.

A great deal of management effort has gone into increasing efficiency throughout the Group; these efforts have included the disposal of loss making and low yielding operations such as Hadfields, the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, and the Sunday Standard Newspaper in Glasgow.

I am glad to tell you that our United Kingdom based companies raised profits by over 78% in 1983, and were a major contributor to the overall rise. This improvement has been shared by nearly all trading activities within the United Kingdom and is not limited to a few. Every indication is that our United Kingdom companies will continue to increase in prosperity.

Our traditional activities of agriculture and mining have performed very well this year, which is not only attributable to improved commodity prices, but is also as a result of reduced operating costs and, in most areas, increased production.

The hotel and casino divisions are showing good growth within Lonrho, and these divisions have been expanded through the opening of the new Marquessa Tower at the Acapulco Princess in Mexico and the opening of two new casinos, one in London and the Princess Casino in the Bahamas.

Capital expenditure this year has been restricted to the minimum necessary to maintain our assets at their highest operating efficiency, and we have not undertaken any large long term projects.

We also benefit from a substantial increase in House of Fraser's profits and share price. Lonrho's near 30% holding in House of Fraser and the contribution and stimulus provided to the management of the company by our Directors has undoubtedly assisted in this improvement. The House of Fraser share price continues to reflect the general belief, by shareholders, that the demerger of Harrods is desirable.

The Observer

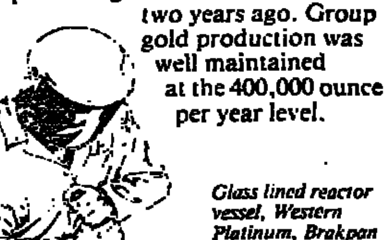
The 180 mile pipeline between Beira and Mutare is fully restored and has been pumping fuel to Zimbabwe steadily throughout the year without interruption.

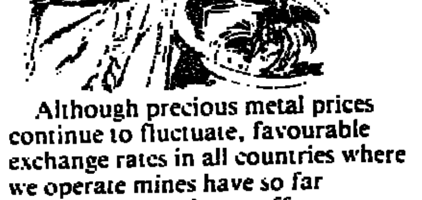
The Lonrho Group, including our associated companies, now employs over 150,000 people.

I know you will want to join all Members of the Board in expressing your appreciation for all the hard work and initiative contributed by those who work for Lonrho both in the United Kingdom and overseas and who have made this year so successful with their support. We have adequate reasons in the first quarter's figures to feel that 1984 will continue an upward trend for the Company as a whole.

MINING AND REFINING

Improved precious metal prices prevailed over the year, which also saw platinum carry a premium over gold. Moreover, we again raised our platinum group metal output to 180,000 ounces for the year and are now producing some 50% more than two years ago. Group gold production was well maintained at the 400,000 ounce per year level.





Glass lined reactor vessel, Western Platinum, Brakpan

Although precious metal prices continue to fluctuate, favourable exchange rates in all countries where we operate mines have so far cushioned any adverse effect.

Additional refining facilities are being planned for our platinum operations designed to release the large sums which are now locked up for long periods in unrefined inventories. At the same time these changes will save operating costs and improve metal recoveries.

Good progress has been made with the development of Eastern Gold Holdings, the major new Anglo American Corporation administered mine, which is planned to produce 400,000 ounces of gold annually at full production. Our subsidiary continues to hold its 36% interest in this venture. We are also planning the expansion of operations at the Ashanti Gold Mine in Ghana using loans from a consortium led by the International Finance Corporation.

Revenue from bituminous coal and anthracite mining was only slightly down in spite of a sharp reduction of sales, in line with the present weakness of coal markets. Capital expenditure at the coal mines was substantially below the level of recent years.

AGRICULTURE

Lonrho and its subsidiaries are Africa's largest commercial food producers, ranching 100,000 head of cattle and farming 1.5 million acres throughout the continent. The Group has also put more land under cultivation in Africa than any other company in the world.



Aerial spraying, Malawi

Our seven sugar estates in Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa and Swaziland returned to overall profitability during the year and increased production to over 420,000 tonnes.

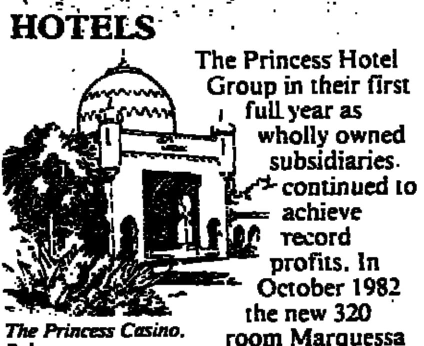
In Zambia, our farming company, Kalangwa Estates, remains one of the largest producers of agricultural goods in the country, with products such as pork, beef, eggs, onions, wheat, maize and potatoes. During the year dairy farming was also introduced, which has proved to be immensely successful.

The drought in Zimbabwe had little effect on the profitability of our agricultural activities. With livestock being in good condition and high average weights being achieved, profits from the sale of 14,500 head of cattle were good. Profit from The Wattle Company, which produces coffee, wattle extract and timber, were also substantially higher, due to better management controls and good coffee prices. We are the largest coffee producers in Zimbabwe.

In Malawi our tea estates produced a record crop of 4.8 million kilogrammes. A combination of good rainfall distribution, improved field practices and management skills produced some yields which are probably the highest in Malawi. The combination of high tea prices and production has resulted in profits being substantially up. We also grow tobacco, coffee and macadamia nuts in that country.

Our wattle extract company in Kenya, which also grows mushrooms, oil seed, wheat and maize and ranches cattle, maintained its reputation for high yields and good quality produce and continues to be a major exporter.

HOTELS



The Princess Casino, Bahamas

The Princess Hotel Group in their first full year as wholly owned subsidiaries continued to achieve record profits. In October 1982 the new 320 room Marquessa Tower at the Acapulco Princess was opened, complementing the existing hotel which is a masterpiece of creative architecture. This luxury hotel complex, which is set in over 200 acres, has proved an extremely popular tourist and conference centre, maintaining high levels of occupancy.

In September it was announced that the Group had acquired a casino in Freeport in the Bahamas. It is intended to renovate completely the casino complex, which will form part of the existing Princess hotel facilities, in order to establish it as one of the finest casinos in the Caribbean.

The Princess Hotel Group now have more hotel rooms in the locations at which they operate than any of their competitors.



Acapulco Princess Hotel, Mexico

In the United Kingdom the Metropole Hotel Group held a record 1,050 conferences and exhibitions in 1983. The new Pembroke in Blackpool, in its first full year of operation, has proved a success with 150 conferences and exhibitions being held there. The Pembroke has also achieved a room occupancy level of 70% and is fully booked over the next two years for periods when party political conferences are held in Blackpool.

In Birmingham 575 conferences were staged and for this coming year the signs are that we will accommodate many more.

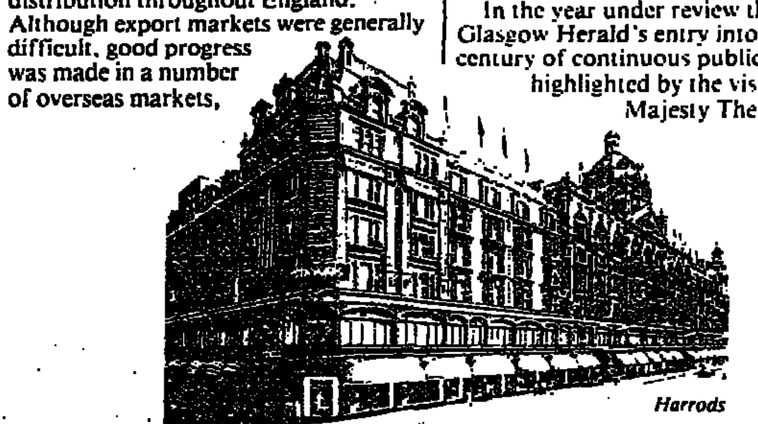
The London Metropole was busy during the year with its room occupancy reaching 88%. Improvements to the hotel's facilities this year will yield results in 1984.

In the Casino division the most exciting event of the year was the opening of a new casino in London. This luxurious casino has made a very good start. Lonrho operate 8 other casinos in the United Kingdom.

WINES AND SPIRITS

Whyte & Mackay Distillers had another satisfactory year. Although the United Kingdom whisky industry as a whole continued to operate in highly competitive conditions, Whyte & Mackay maintained its dominant position in Scotland and increased its distribution throughout England. Although export markets were generally difficult, good progress was made in a number of overseas markets, especially Europe and Canada and in many Duty Free markets.

Whyte & Mackay whisky, Glasgow



Harrods

Our French wine interests, which include the famous vineyards of Châteaux Rausan-Segla, Smith-Haut-Lafitte, La Garde and De La Tour, although affected by the economic situation in France, still maintained good profitability.



Château Rausan-Segla, Bordeaux

In Malawi, we opened two new breweries at Mangochi and Lilongwe bringing the total number of breweries operated in partnership with African Governments and Muncipalities to 17.

The Group bottles Coca Cola in Zambia and Pepsi Cola in Nigeria.

Wine tasting at Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Bordeaux

TEXTILES

Lonrho Textiles, the Group's integrated manufacturing and retail operation, based at Cramlington in the United Kingdom, has continued its longer term strategy of developing its retail network and own brand products such as the "Accord" range which is now amongst the market leaders. During the second half of 1983 more favourable trading conditions resulted in a marked improvement in results. This trend has continued into the current year and with increasing demands on manufacturing capacity we anticipate a continuing improvement.

Strong demand throughout the year helped our Lancashire based David Whitehead textile operations achieve increased profits. The John Barnes division has developed yarn and cloth trading while expanding the manufacture of knitted fabrics for use in both industrial and leisurewear products. Besco Baron successfully completed a modernisation programme at its mill in Rochdale.

Our textile companies in Africa had a mixed year. In Malawi, David Whitehead achieved good results while completing ahead of schedule the installation of Malawi's only cotton/polyester cloth manufacturing plant. The newly equipped Blantyre Netting Company exceeded all our expectations and is working at full production to meet local and export demand for polyester bags, nets and twine. David Whitehead in Zimbabwe had a difficult year with demand severely restricted. Following reorganisation the company is now better placed to react to changes in local demand.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

In the year under review the Glasgow Herald's entry into its third century of continuous publication was highlighted by the visit of Her Majesty The Queen.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

	1983	1982
Turnover	£2356.5m	£2336.2m
Profit before taxation	£113.2m	£75.1m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£40.6m	£20.0m
Earnings per share	15.5p	7.6p
Cash balances	£109.4m	£56.3m

The seventy-fifth Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Thursday, 29th March, 1984 at 12 noon.



The 'all new' Golf from Volkswagen

Major reorganisation at George Outram has resulted in improvements in the Glasgow Herald, Scotland's leading national newspaper, and the Evening Times. It is encouraging to see improving performances in both advertising and circulation in recent months.

The Observer, which is the oldest Sunday newspaper in Britain, and was voted Newspaper of the Year for 1982, has performed well during 1983.

Our provincial newspaper group, Scottish and Universal Newspapers, experienced another difficult trading year during which the economy was still in recession. The key themes of the year have been efficiency and innovation. Every week over one million readers in Scotland read a Scottish and Universal newspaper.

The Prime Minister at the Bicentenary of The Glasgow Herald, Glasgow

Throughout the year, our newspapers won national and international awards for research and community services.

Greenaway Harrison, one of the country's leading printing houses, has had a very successful year. The programme of capital expenditure to ensure the most advanced facilities and techniques for financial and security printing has progressed well. The extensive computer typesetting installations in this company, built up over the last few years, are unmatched by any other commercial, financial or city printer. The highly skilled design unit based in central London has won domestic and international credits and awards for its work.

The Harrison Group, postage stamp and security specialists, continued its programme of capital investment in new product development and new areas of specialisation.

Harrison were proud to print, for the British Post Office, stamps which won two top international philatelic awards.

The educational publishing and bookselling divisions of Holmes McDougall gained important new export contracts and the reorganisation of its colour poster operations in the United States has been highly successful.

High quality label printing for the wine and spirits industry performed well and a number of major new contracts were obtained.

Holmes McDougall were awarded the publishing contract for "Crime, Law and Society" by the Home Office.

The Group also publishes newspapers in Kenya including The Standard and Sunday Standard.

ENGINEERING

The recession in the United Kingdom continued to affect most of our engineering companies during the first half of 1983. However, there are signs that the modest recovery in the economy which began in the summer will continue.

Hadfields was acquired by a consortium headed by the British Steel Corporation as part of the first stage of the Engineering Steels Industry Rationalisation plan, code named Phoenix II.

Newell Dunford, the process plant engineers, is the leader in the field of waste disposal technology, manufacturing plants which convert household waste into low cost fuels, thereby reducing energy costs and resolving the environmental problems associated with the traditional methods of waste disposal.

Lightfoot Refrigeration has enjoyed another successful year and has completed a number of large overseas contracts.

Our furniture companies maintained progress in a difficult market and Sheer Pride, the metal office furniture manufacturer, successfully launched a new range of filing cabinets which are fast becoming market leaders.



Buses built by W. Dohmer & Co., Zimbabwe

Our land renewal company, Sportworks, won the Grand Award of the British Association of Landscape Industries for the best executed contribution to environmental improvements for their work on the Calton Church Precinct in Glasgow. They also gained the principal award for the first major park to have been created in Glasgow since the Second World War.

Overseas, our Belgian subsidiary S.E.E., which is producing water treatment plants for Nigeria, Cameroon and North Africa, is progressing satisfactorily and prospects for further major orders are good.

In Zimbabwe, Dahmers maintained their dominance in the local truck and bus market, with sales of 424 units. Progress is being made in obtaining export markets for their vehicles, which are designed locally and are excellent for use throughout Africa.

In addition, Vitretex Paints, our paint manufacturing company in Zambia, had a record year.

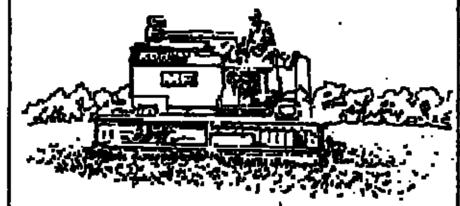
MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

V.A.G (United Kingdom) the sole U.K. importer for Audi and Volkswagen products has improved its unit sales performance every year since its acquisition in 1975 and has once again achieved record sales and profits.

Total vehicle sales of 110,000 units ensured that V.A.G has maintained its position as the leading importer of European cars. The 1983 Car of the Year Audi 100 has quickly established itself in the market and has now been joined by a sporty estate version, the Avant. During 1984 the company will launch a most significant new model which will be a replacement for the best selling Volkswagen Golf.

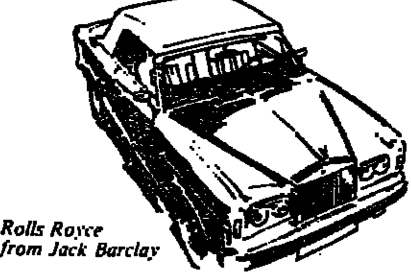
The Group is also the sole importer of Volkswagen and M.A.N. trucks and buses into the United Kingdom.

The Dutton-Forshaw Motor Group, whose principal activity is the distribution of BL vehicles, substantially improved its performance in 1983. Rationalisation of their depot network continued and, allowing for closures, they maintained just under 6% of sales of BL's products, with sales of over 31,000 vehicles. The Dutton-Forshaw Group also increased its share of the national Jaguar sales in the U.K. by 24% compared with the national increase of 10%.



Massey Ferguson combine harvester in East African Tanning Extract Co.'s wheatfields, Kenya

Throughout the year Jack Barclay retained their position as the number one distributor of Rolls Royce cars, accounting for 22% of United Kingdom sales. The extensive service facilities at Battersea performed well under their new senior management.



Rolls Royce from Jack Barclay

The sale of agricultural machinery increased considerably during the year particularly Deutz tractors, and Fahr combine harvesters. Distribution and service facilities were expanded.

Western Machinery had an outstanding year. The sale of Taarup and Welgar agricultural equipment was again highly satisfactory.

In Africa our motor vehicles and agricultural machinery distributors performed well. We are Africa's largest and most widespread motor distributor, holding nearly every major franchise including Mercedes Benz, Land Rover, Toyota, Peugeot and General Motors in one country or another. In Nigeria we have successfully established a vehicle leasing operation and a number of substantial contracts have been concluded with large fleet users.

KÜHNE AND NAGEL

The Kühne and Nagel Group of companies, with 300 offices all over the world, continued to run its shipping, forwarding and warehousing business successfully. In Germany the company has extended its freight terminals in three cities and introduced a nationwide parcel service system, whilst warehousing in North America was extended by the acquisition of a warehouse in Chicago.



Kühne & Nagel terminal facilities, Rotterdam

Transport connected activities such as ship brokerage, crating, port handling and travel have been further developed and a subsidiary of Kühne and Nagel has been entrusted with the formation of a national shipping line for a major African country.

PROPERTY, EXPORT CONFIRMING, FINANCE AND AIRCRAFT

London City & Westcliff Properties and A.V.P. Properties, our property investment companies, have had another successful year. Together with Lonrho, these companies own a diverse portfolio of commercial, residential and industrial properties in England and France. During the year the Group has realised certain low yielding industrial properties, leaving it with a well balanced portfolio of properties which have a current value in excess of £66 million. Notwithstanding these disposals, there has been an increase in the gross rental income of the property portfolio.

In October 1983 we also purchased the prestigious "45 Park Lane" site in London which will be a valuable addition to our property portfolio.

The international confirming and financing activities of Balfour Williamson continued to be adversely influenced by the deterioration of world wide trading conditions over the past years. However, performance in 1984 is expected to show a marked improvement.

The volume of exports to West Africa being financed by John Holt was reduced in 1983 as a result of tighter controls on imports to Nigeria.

The Nigerian investment and property company J.H.I. maintained its impressive growth record and has now acquired a controlling interest in an established Lagos Finance House, the benefits from which will accrue in 1984.

Our cotton broking firm, Baumann Hinde, had a satisfactory year's trading.

Our Beechcraft franchise in Africa recorded the best world-wide divisional sales of these aircraft for 1983. The Group also holds the Lear Jet franchise in Africa. Total sales of aircraft in the year amounted to 82 units.

During the year Tradewinds Airways continued to operate services to Africa whilst gradually converting charter services to scheduled routes. The airline has already commenced scheduled freight services to the U.S.A. and the Sudan.

The Group currently owns or leases a total of 38 aircraft including a Gulfstream and two Boeing 707's.

Yours sincerely,

Tiny Rowland

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Review contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1983 which will be published in late-February. Copies will be available from The Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL

LONRHO

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

A new source of finance

A new-style finance for unquoted companies, particularly smaller ones, is available with the launching of a £7.35m fund in a joint venture by Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers and Candover Investments, the management buy-out specialists *Derek Harris writes.*

The Hoare Candover Exempt Fund, because the investors in it are all pension funds and charities, is not trammelled by the investment timing difficulties which are part of the proliferating Business Expansion Scheme funds.

The idea of funds channelling institutional money and run by a quality management team with a good track record has been exploited considerably in the United States but hardly at all in Britain, says Roger Brooke, Candover's chief executive.

A joint company, Hoare Candover, will be fund manager with a Candover team doing the field work of evaluation, negotiation and monitoring of investments.

In just over three years Candover has made 14 investments in Britain, mostly in management buy-outs, and the majority of them are said to be making good progress.

Some 25 institutions have invested in the new fund.

Minimum investment by the new fund will be around £100,000 and not more than £735,000 (10 per cent of the fund). It will be ready to support high technology ventures but Candover's thinking until now has been more to invest in medium technology companies.

The new fund will be looking to companies that aim to go for a listing either on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) or the Stock Exchange within five years.

A management fee of one per cent will be levied on the fund by Hoare Govett and Candover together. More unusually, each will have an obligation to inject 7.5 per cent into the fund.

● *Contact: Hoare Candover Exempt Fund, 4-7 Red Lion Court, London, EC4A 3EB: telephone (01) 583 5090.*

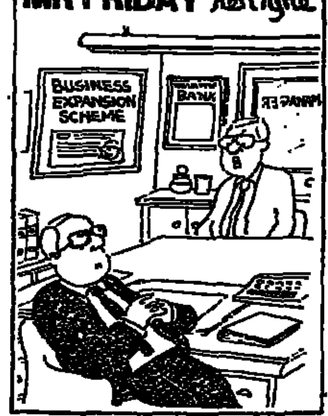
■ To make it easier for small businesses to bid for Government contracts new simplified forms are to be introduced in June.

It is part of a drive by Mr David Trippier, minister for small businesses, to simplify a wide range of forms and he is expected to make more progress with other form-filling later this year.

The June improvement concerns forms calling for general information about a company and its finances.

At present companies seeking Government contracts have to fill in fresh forms on every individual approach to Government departments. From June, one standard questionnaire, cast in a more simplified form, will be filled in once for an initial contract and will then be valid for all subsequent trading between a company and any Government department.

Next in line for improvement will probably be forms which seek details about a company's technical capacity and facilities like factory space and warehousing.



'I was hoping for more than the bus fare to go to the Small Business Advisory Service'

■ To brief British companies on export opportunities offered by contracts funded by the Asian Development Bank, Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce is staging a two-day conference, on May 1 and 2, at the De Vere Hotel, Coventry. There are pickings for smaller as well as larger companies, according to Bob Fordham, the chamber's president.

Contact: D L Burrows, conference executive, Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, PO Box 360, 75 Harbourne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH; telephone: (021) 454 6171; telex: 336024 BIRCOM G.



A personal touch: Peter Smith, centre, and Michael Rudgard, a DPS director, second right with course members at Leeds Castle. Photograph: Harry Kerr.

Retirement as growth area

Barely 18 months ago, Peter Smith, leaving at 48 the "comforting umbrella" of a multinational company after 32 years, set up in business counselling others on how to tackle retirement whether induced early or occurring at a more normal age, *writes Derek Harris.*

Some £50,000 in investment later, and having learned some lessons on the way, he and two co-investors and directors – a retired brewer and a doctor involved in occupational medicine – are within sight of achieving positive cash flow on their retirement planning courses.

The prospects for their business, DPS Consultants, look good. Their mostly four-day courses – with up to a score of people on each course – attracted 160 from a wide range of companies in the first year and in 1984 the number will more than double.

Although at company level there is now much more retirement advice organised, few outside consultants specialise as DPS does in retirement counselling courses, Mr Smith pointed out. What struck him as he first planned the consultancy were a couple of university surveys which suggested that only 5 to 6 per cent of those retiring were offered counselling of any kind.

"There is a lot of growth in this business. But we are not going to be millionaires; it will be simply a lot of fun and a lot of sweat. And we shall not become a large conglomerate; the day we did that we should be lost because we would lose the personal touch. This business is about people."

DPS offers, as well as in-house help for companies, three main courses, at present mostly held in Kent with many at Leeds Castle near Maidstone. One is for those retiring at a normal age, another for those tossed into early retirement and another two-day course is aimed at those in their late forties or early fifties who need to start planning ahead.

Contact: DPS Consultants, 66 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PG: telephone (0795) 531472).

First woman to lead

Britain's latest enterprise agency, Hastings Business Ventures, is the first to have a woman director, Derek Harris writes. She is Victoria John, who was six years with Shell UK's management team at their manufacturing purchasing centre at Wilmslow in Cheshire, where she was involved in launching an enterprise agency in nearby Macclesfield.

Earlier she worked with Bell Telephone in Toronto, Canada, and worked in the reorganizing of a subsidiary company. She said: "It taught me a lot about success and failure in companies."

There is substantial backing for the Hastings venture which also takes in the Rother area covering Bexhill, Battle and Rye. The initiative for the agency came initially from Hastings Borough Council. Now there are nearly 30 backers, mostly local companies but also including Shell UK, British Telecom and the big clearing banks.

The agency is initially offering a free counselling service for small businesses. Already 60 have come forward for advice.

Contact: Hastings Business Ventures, 6 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP: Telephone (0424) 433333.

Good business strategy: the simple secret of Japan's success

Nissan has at last confirmed that it is to go ahead with its plan to open a car plant in Britain. Sir Douglas Hague, chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, assesses whether Japanese managers are the business supermen they appear to be.

"You must remember", said the impressive young civil servant from the Japanese Foreign Ministry, "that we share a common destiny. Japan has invaded British markets for manufactured goods; South Korea is now invading ours." He was exaggerating, of course, but to a Briton, indoctrinated to fear unbeatable export competition from Japan, it came as a salutary shock to be reminded that the Japanese economy is not uniformly efficient.

Indeed, my most striking impression on a recent visit to Tokyo that what I had learned over the years in Britain about the Japanese economy was usually misleading and often wrong.

The most striking feature of Japan's economy is the juxtaposition of extreme efficiency and relative inefficiency. Upwards of 10 per cent of the labour force works in traditional agriculture where, even on Japanese figures, productivity (output per head) is only 40 per cent of that in Britain. The proportion of the work force in wholesaling and retailing, at 25 per cent, is about twice the percentage in Britain, with productivity observably lower than in Britain. So it is in construction, with 10 per cetn of the work force.

Japanese statistics suggest that the remainder of the service sector, more of it in the private sector than in Britain, has somewhat higher productivity than here, but these figures must be over-optimistic. Even in manufacturing, which employs much the same proportion of the labour force as in Britain, the highly efficient, large trading companies are backed up by a host of smaller, less well-organized businesses.

Just as Japanese businesses normally focus on particular export markets, so the highly efficient part of Japan's manufacturing sector is only a relatively small part of the economy – perhaps employing only 10 per cent of the labour force. Yet that is where the effort to build and maintain a substantial surplus on trade in manufactured goods resides.

We worry about this surplus, but often forget that Japan has little indigenous energy and that the trade surplus has been built up to pay Japan's huge bill for imported energy, mainly oil.

Japanese manufacturing is, of course, supported by government. First, government expenditure in current account represents only 10 per cent of gross domestic products, against about 20 per cent in Britain. This draws fewer resources than in Britain into the public sector, prevents the creation of as many pseudo-jobs as in Britain and keeps down tax rates. That is so, even though the absence of a value-added tax or its equivalent means that Japan raises 72 per cent of its tax revenue from the direct taxation of individuals and companies.

Second, the Japanese Government also helps business more directly. Indeed, the conventional wisdom in Britain is that the Japanese Government plays a decisive role in identifying those fields where Japan will soon achieve world supremacy – at present in robots, bio-technology and the information revolution – and in organizing to do this.

My own conclusion is that this much overstates the role of governments. There clearly is very effective collaboration between the Japanese Government and business and, certainly, the Government appears outstandingly good at collecting, analysing and disseminating information. Despite the conventional wisdom in Britain it is not clear that the Japanese Government runs a kind of planned economy. On the contrary, academics like Professor Iida of Nagoya University see the Japanese economy as "a little more market-oriented" than ours and Japan as "a little more American than America".

> 'We in Britain cling to yesterday's industries'

I suspect that in the collaboration between goverument and business, business takes a more dominant position than we in the West allow. Indeed, one Japanese economist plaintively mused: "If the Japanese Government were more powerful, what would become of Japanese economic growth?"

One advantage that Japan has is that it is psychologically more willing than Britain to contemplate moving out of "smoke-stack" industries like steel and chemicals and into what the Japanese now call the "short, small, thin and light industries". Japan appears to be the only leading power already consciously trying to build a twenty-first century industry.

Japan exploits to the full the export potential of today's successful industries like cars and video recorders and, for as long as is practical, will develop industries like steel, whose days it now sees as numbered. Japan differs strongly from Britain in this willingness to regard yesterday's industries – especially textiles and shipbuilding – as expendable, while we have for years sought to sustain them.

These are the industries which Japan is consciously passing on to countries like South Korea, moving out of yesterday's industries and into tomorrow's. We in Britain cling far too tenaciously to yesterday's industries, because we lack the training, the skills, perhaps the entrepreneurs, and certainly the nerve to move into tomorrow's.

Japan is simply following good business strategy at a national level. This seems to be equally true at the level of the individual business. I asked one experienced British observer what were, in his view, the strengths of Japanese business. *He listed five:*

1) Constantly looking to the future – identifying opportunities and threats
2) Going for market share, but with high quality products
3) Continuously making small improvements in products, so that product quality and performance are maintained
4) Developing good *generalist* managers
5) Who work as teams.

One can see here why Japan avoids many of our failings. It does so by ensuring good product design, quality, reliability and prompt delivery; avoiding what many see as Britain's undue preference for big leaps in technology rather than steady, persistent improvement; by developing good, generalist managers (especially in large companies) through the lifetime-education of an already well-educated labour force.

British businessmen, in my experience, seek to explain Japan's recent success by some unique strategem, some special gimmick. Indeed they seek to explain Britain's relative decline with equal naivètè. Yet my informant's statement of Japan's business strengths is no more than a statement of good business practice.

In short, the secret of the Japanese economic miracle is that there is no secret. Japan is simply taking best practices as expounded by the world's best business schools – Manchester, Harvard, or wherever – and applying them with dedication and discipline. If Japan has a single strength, it is that – dedicated discipline.

Airlines fight for Riyadh route

The latest skirmish in the routes battle between British Airways and British Caledonian ended yesterday when a Civil Aviation Authority hearing into which airline should be allowed to fly into the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, finished taking evidence.

Until late last year, only the Saudi national airline, Saudia, was allowed to operate from there. Any foreign airline now given the right to fly in can expect it to be profitable almost immediately. The successful British bidder may be given a verbal go-ahead early next week.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¾%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%; £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

Cooking outwith day care attendance allowance

In re Woodling

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches delivered February 9]

The requirement of another person's assistance in preparing meals was not an element of "attention... in connexion with... bodily functions". The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by Mrs Nona Parks Woodling from a decision of Mr Justice Woolf who refused to reverse by prerogative order decisions of the Attendance Allowance Board and the Social Security Commissioner who had held that the appellant was not in law entitled to an attendance allowance under section 35 of the Social Security Act 1975.

The judge certified pursuant to section 12 of the Administration of Justice Act 1969 that a point of law of general public importance was involved in the decision and that that point was one in respect of which he was bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Secretary of State for Social Services* ([1981] 1 WLR 1017) (*Packer's* case).

Section 35(1) of the 1975 Act provides: "A person shall be entitled to an attendance allowance if he satisfies prescribed conditions as to residence or presence in Great Britain and either – (a) he is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, by day, he requires from another person either – (i) frequent attention throughout the day in connexion with his bodily functions, or (ii) continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others...".

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC and Mr Richard Drabble for the appellant; Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Secretary of State for Social Services.

LORD BRIDGE said that a person requiring attention only by day or only by night received an attendance allowance at one rate, a person requiring attention both by day and by night at a higher rate.

The sole criticism of the decision of the delegated medical practitioner (duly discharging the function delegated to him by the Attendance Allowance Board) was that, in concluding that the appellant was not entitled to attention by day under section 35(1)(a) (no claim for attention at night having been made), he erred in law in excluding from consideration the appellant's requirement of another person's assistance in preparing her meals as an element of "attention... in connexion with her bodily functions".

The scope of the provision in its context had been a matter of controversy for some time. The legislation assumed its present form in 1972.

The Court of Appeal was told in *Packer's* case that until 1979 it was the universal practice of delegated medical practitioners to exclude cooking from the relevant "attention" to be considered under section 35(1)(a). Before 1979, in cases in which the point was not directly in issue, there were some conflicting dicta of different commissioners.

The point of construction was a short one, a difficult one and as a history of the controversy about it had shown, a point on which different minds could fairly take different views. It was largely a matter of impression and did not admit of elaborate argument or analysis.

First, it was clear that the policy underlying section 35 stopped short of providing an attendance allowance for all who were incapable of looking after themselves without some outside help even if that help was frequently required.

Very large areas of domestic work in respect of which the disabled were necessarily dependent on others were deliberately excluded. If cooking was the one domestic chore that qualified, it was, in a sense, the odd man out.

Again, it seemed a reasonable inference that the policy of the enactment was to provide a financial incentive to encourage families or friends to undertake the difficult and sometimes distasteful task of caring within the home for those who were so severely disabled that they must otherwise become a charge on some public institution.

The language of the section should be considered as a whole, and such consideration would be more likely to reveal the intention than an attempt to analyse each word or phrase separately.

The totality of the language to be construed read "A person... is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, by day, he requires from another person... frequent attention throughout the day in connexion with his bodily functions". At first blush that language did not fit the person whose physical disablement only prevented him from preparing his own meals.

If one had to break down and attempt to analyse the language three points needed emphasis. First, the disablement must be severe. Second, the phrase "bodily functions" was a restricted and precise one, narrower than, for example, "bodily needs". Third, the phrase "attention... in connexion with bodily functions", which must be read as a whole, connoted a high degree of physical intimacy between the person giving and the person receiving the attention.

The correct criterion was contained in the words of Mr Commissioner Monroe in 1974 and cited by Lord Justice Dunn in *Packer's* case that "the words of the section refer to a person who needs the relevant degree of attention in connexion with the performance of his bodily functions and... they are directed primarily to those functions which the fit man normally performs himself". Accordingly, the restricted construction was the correct one.

Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Outred & Co for Kirk Jackson & Co, Swinton; Solicitor, Department of Health and Social Security.

Employer of jewel thief liable for loss

Nahhas (formerly Hicks) v Pier House (Cheyne Walk) Management Ltd and Another

Before Mr Denis Henry, QC

[Judgment delivered February 1]

A company the duty of which was to manage a block of flats would be vicariously liable for the fraud of a porter employed by it who had used keys entrusted to him by a tenant to gain entry to her flat and steal property belonging to her.

Mr Denis Henry QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment awarding the plaintiff, Mrs Anne Elizabeth Nahhas, damages of £23,250 in respect of jewelry stolen from her by an employee of the first defendant, Pier House (Cheyne Walk) Management Ltd. The second defendant was Harold Williams Bennett & Partners, estate agent.

Mr Daniel Serota for the plaintiff; Mr John Laws for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that both defendants had been negligent in their recruitment procedures and that, had they checked the information given them by the porter, they would have discovered that he was a professional thief and would not have employed him.

In any event, the first defendant, whose employee the thief had been, was vicariously liable for his fraud because it had been committed in breach of the first defendant's duty to protect the plaintiff's flat and to take care of her keys, the performance of which it had delegated to the thief. It made no difference that the first defendant was not a bailee of the property stolen.

The plaintiff had not been insured in respect of most of the loss but insurance brokers, acting from a mixture of benevolent and commercial motives, had, after the theft, paid the plaintiff a sum equivalent to her uninsured loss on condition that she sue the defendants and pay any damages recovered to them.

Although that sum had been paid neither as a simple gift, nor under a contract of insurance, there was no rule of law which prevented her bringing a claim in respect of the entire loss by way of subrogation.

Solicitors: Needham & James, Birmingham; Stoneham Langton & Passmore, Croydon; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Guidance on remitting to juvenile court for sentence

Regina v Lewis (Michael)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Leggatt

[Judgment delivered January 31]

Guidance about the effect of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 on the need to remit convicted juveniles to a juvenile court for sentence was given by the Lord Chief Justice delivering judgment dismissing an appeal by Michael Lewis, aged 16, from a sentence of five years' detention imposed under section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 by Judge Cohen at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court.

The appellant, then aged 15, had pleaded guilty to wounding another youth with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm, contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, by stabbing him repeatedly with a flick knife.

Mr Euan Duff, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in the circumstances the five-year sentence was absolutely correct. There was no doubt that the correct procedure had been adopted by the judge.

However, there seemed to have been a variation among crown courts in the practice adopted with regard to the need to remit juveniles convicted in the crown court to a juvenile court for sentence and it might be helpful to take the opportunity afforded by the present case to give some guidance on the topic.

His Lordship reviewed the historical background, from the Children Act 1908 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, and said that, after 1969, unless the crown court and its predecessors considered it appropriate to deal with a juvenile in a manner which was beyond the powers of a juvenile court, or by discharge, fine or bind over of parent or guardian, the matter was to be remitted to a juvenile court: *R v Holden* ((1981) 3 Cr App R (S) 78) and *R v Bailey* ((1982) 4 Cr App R (S) 176).

The difficulty had arisen in crown courts over the effect of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which adopted a different approach to the treatment of juvenile offenders.

By that Act a juvenile court, as well as the crown court, was empowered to impose detention – sections 4 and 5; youth custody – maximum of six months for one offence and maximum aggregate of 12 months – sections 6 and 7 and section 24(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 as amended by Schedule 14 to the 1982 Act; and community service orders for 16 year olds in certain circumstances – section 68 and Schedule 12.

The effect was an alignment of the sentencing powers of the higher and lower courts. The concept of the juvenile court being the sole proper forum in which to deal with juveniles now seemed to their Lordships to be out of place.

When applying section 56(1) of the 1933 Act a court had to consider whether it was "satisfied that it would be undesirable to... remit the case to a juvenile court..."

Possible reasons that it would be undesirable to do so were, *inter alia*, that the judge who presided over the trial would be better informed about the facts and circumstances; that there was, in the sad and frequent experience of the Court of Appeal, a risk of unacceptable disparity if co-defendants were to be sentenced in different courts on different occasions; that, as a result of the remission, there would be delay, duplication of proceedings and fruitless expense; and the provisions for appeals, which were: from crown court convictions to the Court of Appeal; and from orders made in the juvenile court, an appeal to the crown court.

However, it might become desirable to remit the case where a report had to be obtained and the judge would be unable to sit when it became available. That situation, however, should be avoided whenever possible, for example, by the committing justices giving directions that reports be obtained before the trial.

Parent's candle duty

Jauffur v Akhbar and Another

If a parent knew that there were candles present in his house, he was under a duty to instruct his minor children as to the caution with which lighted candles should be treated, and to supervise them with a view to preventing danger arising from the use of candles by them.

Mr Justice Peter Pain so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 9, giving judgment for the plaintiff, Miss Nazma Bibi Jauffur, against the first defendant, Mr Malik Akhbar, on the issue of liability in an action which she had brought against him and his son, Mr Abdul Akhbar, who, when aged 14, had, consequent upon his negligence with a lighted candle, caused a fire at his home, as a result of which the plaintiff had sustained serious injury.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the second defendant had admitted liability for the plaintiff's injury, but the first defendant also was liable because he had given his son no instruction or warning about the use of candles, knowing that there were candles present in the house.

The plaintiff had also alleged breach of the common duty of care, imposed on the first defendant by section 2 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957, but his Lordship doubted whether that Act was intended to cover such a case as this, and accordingly he would give judgment in negligence only.

False entry on internal document no offence

Regina v Tweedie (Brian Gordon)

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Drake and Mr Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment delivered January 27]

An employee, who knowingly put a false entry on a document with the intent to deceive, or mislead his employers, was not guilty of an offence under section 1(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, where that document was to be used for internal purposes and not intended to go to a third party.

The Court of Appeal Criminal Division, so held when allowing the appeal of Brian Gordon Tweedie against his conviction of corruption on October 8, 1982 at the Central Criminal Court contrary to section 1(1) of the Act and his sentence of nine months imprisonment suspended for two years, and discharging the criminal bankruptcy order made against him in the sum of £170,000.

Section 1(1) of the 1906 Act provides in the third paragraph: "If any person knowingly gives to any agent, or if any agent knowingly uses with intent to deceive his principal, any receipt, account, or other document in respect of which the principal is interested, and which contains any statement which is false or erroneous or defective in any material particular, and which to his knowledge is intended to mislead the principal; he shall be guilty of [an offence]".

Mr John Black, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr R. Alun Jones for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been employed as a senior metal dealer by Gerald Metals Ltd which bought and sold precious metals including palladium and silver. After each deal he entered the transaction on his trading sheet which was handed in to the accounting staff at the end of each trading day. If a sale had been effected an invoice was made out.

On September 23, 1980 the appellant was told by one of his directors to sell silver and palladium before the close of trading because, as it turned out, he suspected the market was likely to start falling.

The appellant made false entries on his trading sheet showing that he had sold 3,000 troy ounces of palladium and 16,000 troy ounces of silver, and handed it to the accounts staff. The appellant was found out and confessed that the sales had not been carried out. His company had suffered a loss of £170,000.

His Lordship said that as far as was known the present case was the first time such a charge had been preferred in respect of a false entry made by an employee in a document which was to be used in the employer's business.

Mr Black submitted that the third paragraph of section 1(1) of the Act was only to apply in respect of accounting documents passing or intended to pass between a principal and a third party, and so the trading sheet did not come within the section.

Mr Jones submitted that there would be evidence of dishonesty if the prosecution were able to prove that an employee in a position of trust had knowingly used a document which he knew contained a false statement with intent to deceive and mislead his employers. A charge of forgery was not appropriate. The use of the word "or" at the end of the first and second paragraphs showed that an employee could be guilty without anyone else being so.

His Lordship said that the third paragraph was part of one subsection which dealt in the first two paragraphs with dishonest conduct, either as a fact or in contemplation, between an employee and a third party. It would be odd drafting for the last part of the subsection to create an offence which made an employee criminally liable for using a document which did not have any connexion with a third party or was not intended to go to a third party.

The words "or other document" should be construed as meaning a document which would pass *inter partes*. All the words following "intent to deceive his principal" were words common to the definition of an offence by a third party or an employee.

The court adopted what was said by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Sage v Eicholz* ([1919] 2 KB 171) where it was noted that the word "corruptly" was omitted from the third paragraph of section 1(1). The trading sheet was a document for accounting purposes and was not used *inter partes*. It did not acquire those characteristics merely because its existence started the procedure by which later *inter partes* documents would come into existence.

Parliament could not have intended that any document knowingly used by an employee with an intent to deceive or mislead his employers would be caught under the 1906 Act. The appeal would therefore be allowed.

Solicitors: Edward Fail, Bradshaw & Waterson; Director of Public Prosecutions.

Tolerance clause in time charter

Atlantic Lines and Navigation Co Inc v Didymi Corporation and Another

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson

[Judgment delivered February 6]

When time charters contained clauses that ships were to be redelivered to owners five years from the commencement of the charters with tolerance periods of three months more or less in the charterers' option, to be narrowed to 45 days more or less in the charterers' option at latest by the end of the fourth year of the charters, notices given after the end of the fourth year purporting to narrow the tolerance periods to the 90 days immediately prior to the end of the fifth year would be effective.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by owners against the judgment of Mr Justice Staughton on January 16 (*The Times*, January 18) who granted the charterers a declaration that they were entitled to redeliver two ships within the 90-day periods immediately prior to the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the charters.

Mr R. J. L. Thomas for the owners; Mr Stephen Males for the charterers.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that a "contractual option" enabled the beneficiary to define precisely what the contract required of him. A "performance option" itself defined the alternative ways in which the contract could be performed and called for no action upon the part of the beneficiary save to perform the contract in a particular way.

The references to the charters being for five years three months more or less at the charterers' option without any requirement as to how or when the options were to be exercised had all the characteristics of performance options: see per Lord Devlin in *Reardon Smith Line Ltd v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* ([1963] AC 691, 729) and the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *The Aspa Maria* ([1976] 2 Lloyd's Rep 643).

The decisive argument was that which treated the option to narrow the redelivery period to 45 days more or less as a duty, albeit one which contained an option with it. The words "to be narrowed" suggested a duty.

The judge was right. The appeal should be dismissed.

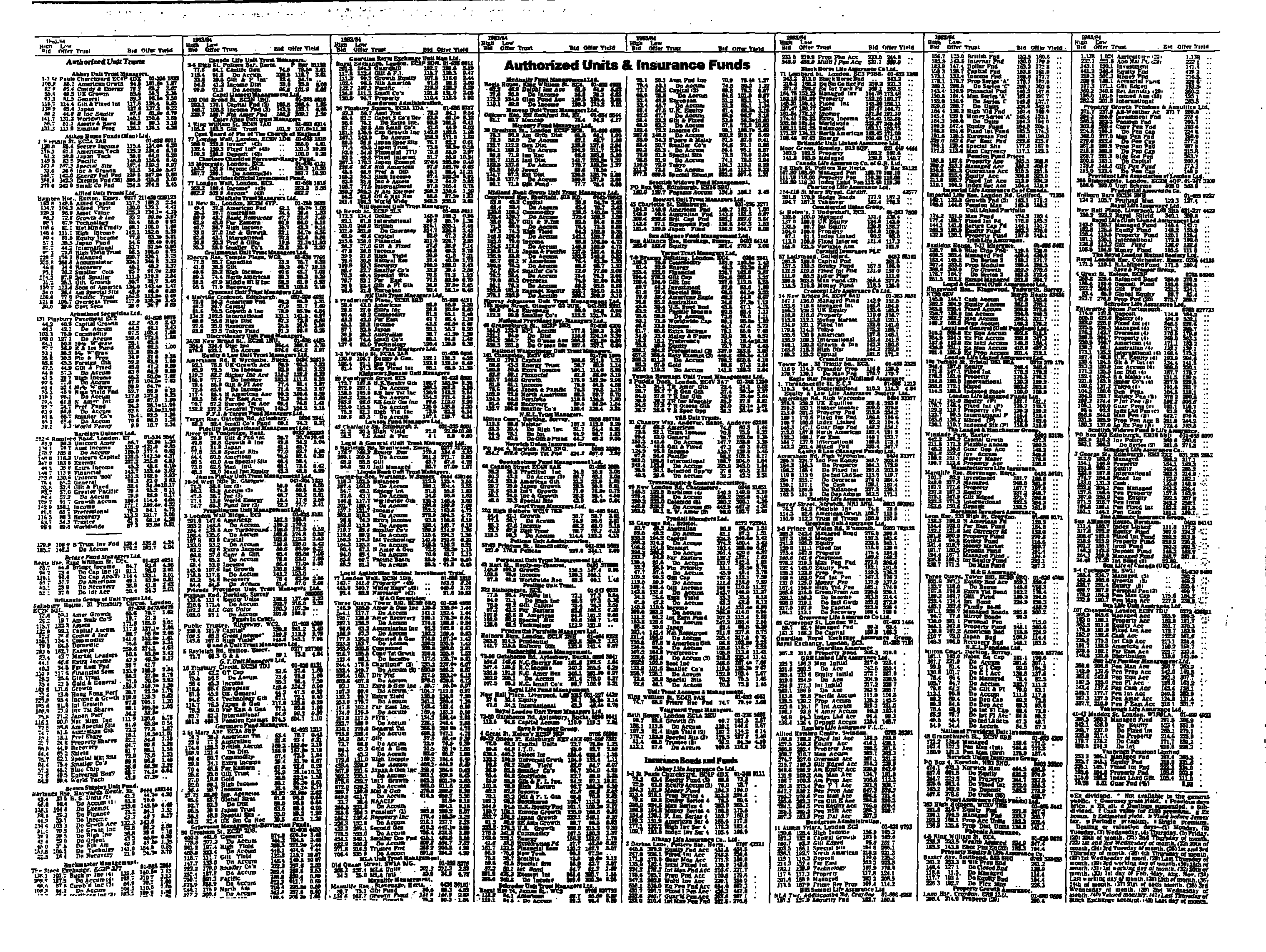
Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson agreed.

Solicitors: Holman, Fenwick & Willan; Clyde & Co.

Holidays for disabled

Regina v Ealing London Borough Council, Ex parte Leaman

Where a disabled person had applied to a local authority under section 2(1)(f) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 for financial assistance in taking a privately arranged holiday, it was an error of law for the authority to decline to consider the application on the ground that they would only grant such assistance for holidays which they had arranged or sponsored, Mr Justice Mann held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 6.



Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Torvill and Dean set off on the long search for gold

From John Hennessy, Sarajevo



Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean set off this afternoon in search of the treasured Olympic gold medals for ice dancing. The three compulsory dances provide a long introduction, lasting from 1 pm to 6 pm. The chosen group, as in the British and European championships earlier in the season are the Paso Doble, the Westminster Waltz and the Rhumba. If there are those of little faith who refuse to tempt providence by accepting the almost universal view that Torvill and Dean have only to stand up to win the championship, it would certainly be a stunning setback if they failed to win this first exercise.

Their compulsories are as near flawless as you can humanly get and the little embellishments they have infiltrated in the rigid set of rules laid down by the International Skating Union stamp them as questing innovators as well as technical experts.

All the same, they have had second thoughts about a hold in the Paso Doble and a change of position, more than anything else, in the Waltz. They would hope by those means to deny ammunition to any judge who stuck rigidly by not only protocol but also convention.

A meeting with Irina Absaliamova, the Russian judge, last evening was an agreeable interlude but provided no penetration of mind. It may be recalled that it was she who reduced the British couple to a penal 5.6 for the original set pattern Paso Doble in the European championships in Budapest last month.

Perhaps even more surprising was her second place for Torvill and Dean behind her own compatriots, Natalya Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin, in the Waltz. Her marks were 5.8 for the Soviet Union and 5.7 for Britain. Only the French judge, who marked both couples level, refused similarly to acknowledge British supremacy.

The French judge on that occasion, Armelle van Eybergen, tended to follow a parallel course to Mrs Absaliamova in Budapest, but for these games the French are not represented.

Since charm failed to move Mrs Absaliamova another device was used. She would, I suggested, be the focus of all attention in her marks this week, with every British camera trained on her. Alas, she took the remark as a leg-pull rather than an attempt at intimidation.

I do not, of course, seriously suggest that any judge is guilty of bias, one way or the other, but the British bow to orthodoxy in the Paso and the Waltz should disarm any criticism.

Bestemianova and Bukin ought to pose the biggest threat to Torvill and Dean, having been runners-up to them in the last two world championships and two of the last three European championships. The Russians won the European by default last year because of an injury to Miss Torvill.

If Bestemianova and Bukin are indeed the principal challengers, largely on the strength of Miss Bestemianova's sparkling personality, they were effectively held at bay once more in Budapest, apart from one or two idiosyncratic marks, judging by the other seven judges, of Mrs Absaliamova and Mrs Van Eybergen.

Only one other couple seem to have the potential to live with Torvill and Dean, the American champions Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert. Thy were third in last year's world championship.

The Americans, however, have suffered a serious setback in their training, for Seibert contracted a disease variously described as hepatitis and glandular fever, which kept him off the ice altogether for five weeks on either side of Christmas. He has been reintroduced to training only gently and it is hard to believe that he, and they, can be match-fit for such a demanding occasion.

The other eight judges come from Hungary, West Germany, Britain, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Canada and the United States. The second stage of the competition, the original set pattern, is to be held on Sunday, and the free dance on Tuesday.

Torvill and Dean have been drawn seven, Bestemianova and Bukin 16, which gives them almost identical positions in relation to clean ice on all three dances. The British couple, however, are marginally better placed, tactically speaking.

Off the ice: Canada's Bruce Driver was forced to cool off after this cross-check on Austria's Rudolf Koenig

Too Arctic for the Alpine men

From John Hennessy

The Olympic alpine skiing programme suffered an early setback yesterday when the first event, the men's downhill on Mount Bjelasnica, had to be called off. A wind gusting to 80mph was accompanied by poor visibility and driving snow and the cancellation was announced as early as 10.30am, an hour and a half before the race was due to start.

Marc Hodler, president of the International Ski Federation (FIS), explained that the decision to postpone the race was taken in the interests not only of the skiers but also of others involved in the event. Several soldiers among many drafted in to lick the course into shape, had already been taken down the mountain with frostbite.

An optimistic weather forecast might have induced the officials to stay their hand but the meterologists predicted, correctly, a continuation of the arctic conditions.

The race will be run today, weather permitting. Otherwise it would have to be held over to Sundav

A new draw has had to be made and has heavily favoured three of the leading challengers. Peter Mueller (Switzerland), Bill Johnson (United States) and Todd Brooker (Canada), who were to have occupied the first three places, will now bring up the rear of the first group – provided the weather relents.

British women keep true spirit alive blazing Nordic trail

From David Miller, Sarajevo

What is left of the genuine, old Olympic spirit was cheerfully to be found here yesterday among the first-ever British women's Nordic cross-country ski team. They occupied consecutive positions from forty-fifth to fortyeighth, ahead of four communist Chinese, and were only marginally disappointed.

The winner of the 10 kilometres race, in 31 minutes 44.2 seconds, was Marja-Lisa Hamalainen, a 28-year-old Finn who has been skiing since she was five, first competed at six, and has a string of international achievements behind her. She won by 18 seconds from another specialist, Raissa Smetanina, of the Soviet Union, both of them substantially sponsored.

The British women – Ros Coats, Nicola Lavery, Doris Trueman and Lauren Jeffrey – have prepared on the sort of budget which finances Women's Institute seaside outings rather than Olympic champions. Mrs Trueman and her husband John, the team manager, both residents of Alice Springs in Australia, have paid around £6,000 for the privilege of being here.

By comparison, the Firth twins of Canada, Shirley and Sharon, who both finished in the top 30, received a £65,000 sponsorship from their Government in a national promotion bid for the next Winter Games in Calgary. By what one might, in sporting terms, call sheer blood and guts, training in Central Australian temperatures of 120°F. Mrs Trueman, a schoolteacher, had closed on the Canadians's relative times by almost five minutes in two years.

Not the least interesting statistics of this arduous race, over a tormenting course in a biting wind which caused the men's downhill to be postponed, was that five of the women in the first 20 are mothers, a reassuring achievement for feminists. Indeed, Berit Aunli, who won three gold medals and a silver in the 1982 world championships, produced a daughter last year and now missed a bronze medal by only five seconds behind her compatriot, Brit Pettersen.

The team director, Major John Leaning, considers that the results are an unfavourable reflection of Britain's recent improvement because Romania, Austria, France, Netherlands, Australia and Bulgaria, whose individual competitors have been beaten by the British, were not among the 16 national teams entered.

Miss Jeffrey, a 22-year-old WRAC with the Intelligence Corps and potentially the most promising of the quartet, was frustrated with her position at the rear – she fell after nine kilometres – for which she offered only barrack-room epithets. Possibly she was overawed mentally by the occasion but by 1988 she could be a leading contender.

Upper body physique is a key factor. Nadya Bourlakova, of the Soviet Union, starting half a minute behind Miss Jeffrey, had reduced the margin by 15 seconds after only a minute and a half of the first climb and subsequent downhill run.

Miss Coats, a 34-year-old redundant physics teacher from Renfrewshire, who decided not to seek reemployment until after the Olympics, was ill a week ago but made a strong recovery. She was five times winner of the Ben Nevis Fell Run and, as Leaning, says: "If we'd caught her 10 years ago for skiing it could have been a different story." She began skiing six years ago.

Leaning's aim over the next eight years, with a modest grant from the Sports Council, is to try to broaden the base, specially by enlisting more women from the athletics arena: outstanding runners from 1,500 and 3,000 metres and cross-country runners who, unlikely to be internationals, could instead become Olympic contenders if they would switch to skiing.

Today's events

Alpine skiing: men's downhill
Nordic skiing: men's 30km
Luge: men's singles, women's singles (second runs)
Speed skating: men's 500m, women's 500m
Figure skating: ice dance: compulsory dances; pairs skating: short programme
Bobsleigh: two-man (first and second runs)
BBC1-TV: 2-3.55pm (ice dance): 6.40-7.30pm (round up): 10.50-11.15 pm (pairs)

Russian for Canadiens?

Sarajevo (Reuter) – The gold medal favourites, the Soviet Union maintained their 100 per cent record in the Olympic ice hockey tournament yesterday by beating Italy 5-1 in their second preliminary Group A match. Russians are seeking their sixth gold medal in eight Winter games. West Germany, who also won their opening match on Tuesday, took two more points by beating Poland 8-5.

Vladislav Tretyak, the Soviet Union's 31-year-old net-minder, has been sent a contract by the Montreal Canadiens, of North America's National Hockey League. A representative of the Canadiens, Jerry Grundman, delivered the contract to a Soviet sports offical. Tretyak said last winter during a tour of North America with an all-star squad that he would not mind playing for Montreal

● The triple world champion, Ernst Haspinger, of Italy took the lead on the first run of the Olympic men's single luge championship with a time of 46.157 secs on the 1,210-metre Trebevic run. The four-day event looks set to develop into a tough battle between Italy and East Germany after the first two lugers from each nation all finished within four hundredths of a second of each other.

The favourite for the title, Paul Hildgartner, was well in touch in third place behind East Germany's Torsten Guerlitzer.

Talks on torch relay plan fail

Sarajevo, Reuter – A dispute over a planned Olympic torch relay is still unresolved after talks between Greek Olympic officials and organizers of the Los Angeles summer games, Greek sources said here yesterday.

Summer plans by Los Angeles for a sponsored torch relay across the United States before the Games begin in July have been denounced by the Greek government and National Olympic Committee as commercialization of the flame they hold sacred.

A Greek member of the International Olympic Committee, Nikolaos Nissiotis, discussed the issue in Sarajevo with Peter Uegerroth, the president of the Los Angeles Organizing Committee. Greek sources said the talks failed to resolve the dispute, but would be resumed in a few weeks' time.

● Warsaw (AFP) – The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was congratulated yesterday for refusing to give accreditations to journalists from the Europe-based American Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty for the Olympic Winter Games.

Rzeczpospolita, the official party newspaper in Poland, said the activity of the two Munich-based stations – Radio Free Europe broadcasts in Polish and Radio Liberty in Russian – "is directed against Socialist countries, especially against Poland these last few years, and has nothing to do with the Olympic ideal".

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NORDIC SKIING

WOMEN'S 10km CROSS COUNTRY: 1, M-L Haemaelainen (Fin), 31min 44.2secs; 2, R Smetanina (USSR) 32:02.9; 3, B Pettersen (Nor) 32:12.7; 4, B Aunli (Nor) 32:17.7; 5, A Jahren (Nor) 32:26.2; 6, L M Risby (Swe) 32:34.8; 7, M Myrmael (Nor) 32:35.3; 8, Y Stepanova (USSR) 32:45.7; 9 N Bourlakova (USSR) 32:55.8; 10, K Jerlova (Cz) 32:58.7. British placings: 46, R Coates 38:12.2; 47, N Lavery 39:05.2; 48, D Trueman 39:28.4; 49, L Jeffrey 40:11.2.

SPEED SKATING

WOMEN'S 1,500 METRE: 1, K Enke (EG) 2:03.42 (world record); 2, A Schoene (EG) 2:05.29; 3, N Petruseva (USSR) 2:05.78; 4, G Schonbrunn (EG) 2:07.69; 5, E Rys-Ferenis (Pol) 2:08.08; 6, V Lalenkova (USSR) 2:08.17; 7, N Kourova (USSR) 2:08.41; 8 B Jensen (Nor) 2:09.53; 9, I Limbach (Neth) 2:10.35; 10, S Smuda (WG) 2:10.55.

LUGE

MEN'S SINGLES (first run – unofficial): 1, E Haspinger (It) 46.157seconds; 2, T Guerlitzer (EG) 46.177; 3, P Hildgartner (It) 46.182; 4, M Walter (EG) 46.198; 5, Y Kharitchenko (USSR) 46.310; 6, V Dudin (USSR) 46.385; 7, J Schettel (WG) 46.388; 8, S Danilin (USSR) 46.433; 9, M Prock (Austria) 46.468; 10, G Sandbichler (Austria) 46.6021. British placings: 27, A Usborne 49.901; 28, C Prentice 50.083; 30 M Howard 50.415.

WOMEN'S SINGLE (first run – unofficial): 1, S Martin (EG) 41.639 seconds; 2, B Schmidt (EG) 41.662; 3, U Weiss (EG) 41.908; 4, V Zozulya (USSR) 42.079; 5, I Anantova (USSR) 42.101; 6, A Goeliner (Austria) 42.437; 7, M Rainer (It) 42.560; 8, B Warner (US) 42.632; 9, M Jasenitchakova (Czech) 42.92; 10, C Zeitz (WG) 42.707. British placing: 27, C Sherred 45.580.

ICE HOCKEY

GROUP A: West Germany 8, Poland 5; Soviet Union 8, Italy 1.

GROUP B: Canada 8, Austria 1; Finland 16, Norway 2.

Miss Enke wins gold in 1,500m

Sarajevo (Reuter) – Karin Enke, of East Germany, shattered the world 1,500 metres record as she won the first speed skating gold medal of the Games here yesterday. Miss Enke, who switched from figure skating to speed skating six years ago, scorched round the Zetra Oval in 2 minutes 03.42 seconds to break the world mark by 0.62 seconds.

Her teammate, Andrea Schoene, took the silver medal with a time of 2 minutes, 05.29 seconds – almost two seconds slower – and Natalia Petruseva, of the Soviet Union, who held the previous record, won the bronze with 2 minutes 05.78 seconds.

The East German team also took fourth place through Gabi Schoenbrunn.

The top 12 finishers broke the Olympic record of 2 minutes 10.95 seconds set by Annie Bocink, of the Netherlands, in 1980.

Miss Enke setting a world record at the Zetra Oval

RUGBY UNION

Doubts remain but Wales play safe for the French test

By Gerald Davies

The Welsh selectors have announced an unchanged team to play France a week tomorrow, with Mike Watkins, after his commanding leadership in his first international, as Captain. There is a change, however, in the replacements where Jeff Whitefoot, the Cardiff prop, comes in for Staff Jones.

It is easy to consider changes in a losing team provided there are suitable alternatives. This is not always the case – as in Ireland, for instance.

It is far harder to make adjustments in a winning side, a point Ray Williams used to make when he was coaching organisers. No one can look to the performance last Saturday and suggest anyone played below par.

Yet there is a feeling the team can still be strengthened. The whole back division looks highly promising with both Bowen and Ackerman in particular proving to be penetrative runners. It is at forward that doubts persist. John Perkins, who is not playing as well as last season when he ought to have been chosen for the Lions, is, one assumes, chosen for his scrummaging ability. On the evidence so far little use had been made of him, for whatever reason, in the line out.

Terry Shaw, the young Newbridge lock, who was played out of position in Romania, is a candidate as is Adrian Owen of Aberavon. Phil May of Llanelli, though not in the squad, is playing well too.

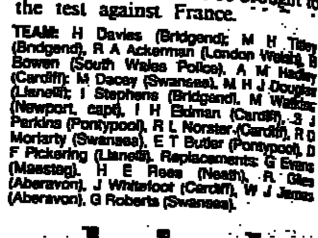
For the present, at any rate, the selectors may be correct in assessing that Perkins' powerful presence in the scrum ensures that phase remains strong.

A question mark still hangs over Richard Moriarty. His main contribution at Lansdowne Road was in the line out, although even here the possession that Mark Douglas at scrum half had to deal with was not of the best.

At least in his second appearance at wing forward other back row members gave Moriarty protection and support, whereas against Scotland he had been left entirely on his own to contend with Leslie.

It is in his other role on the side of the scrum that he will be brought to the test against France.

TEAM: H Davies (Bridgend); M H Titley (Bridgend), R A Ackerman (London Welsh), B Bowen (South Wales Police), A M Hadley (Cardiff); M Dacey (Swansea), M H J Douglas (Llanelli); I Stephens (Bridgend), M Watkins (Newport, capt), I H Eidman (Cardiff), S J Perkins (Pontypool), R L Norster (Cardiff), R D Moriarty (Swansea), E T Butler (Pontypool), D F Pickering (Llanelli). Replacements: G Evans (Maesteg), H E Rees (Neath), R Giles (Aberavon), J Whitefoot (Cardiff), W J James (Aberavon), G Roberts (Swansea).



Friends and rivals are going to clash

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

One school particularly appreciative of the recent improvement in the fierce weather that curtailed rugby over much of the country is **Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol.** Last Saturday they defeated **Christ College, Brecon,** (16-12) to bring their record this season to: played 16, won 16.

Next Saturday they meet their near friends and rivals, **Bristol Grammar School** and must be forgiven for feeling a degree of confidence. They can boast four players from Gloucestershire 18 group side (James Davies, centre, Chris Davies, a wing, Lloyd at scrum half and Pentland, a prop).

Perhaps their most spectacular victory was over **Queen's Taunton,** who they beat 57-11, but one of their most satisfying victories was at the expense of **Llandovery College** (19-4). Dobney, an outstanding wing, is too old for advancement at 18 group level.

During the height of the freeze-up one school to defeat the elements as well as their opponents was Rydal, who beat **Merchant Taylors',** Crosby, by a single point (7-6) through a late dropped goal by Owen, their talented stand off half.

One of the outstanding Lancashire sides, **West Park School,** are unbeaten after 22 matches and their long awaited meeting with **Winstanley College** (also unbeaten) which was a casualty of the weather, may not now be played; **West Park** are due to meet Cowley on February 22. West Park have a remarkable record in seven-a-side tournaments and in the weeks ahead will enter seven tournaments in four of which they are defending champions.

Further north, **Austin Friars School, Carlisle,** are also unbeaten after ten matches; the school has under 300 boys between 11 and 18.

The England 18 group trials are now under way; on February 25 the North play the Midlands, who have already been beaten by London Schools. Next Sunday, the 12th, the Southern trials will be held at Beckenham when the South East meet the combined South and South West areas team.

TEAM: A S Mitchell (Redruth), T R Richardson (Blundell's), G M Underwood (Exeter College), T P B Plewman (Sherborne), J Boxall (Dorset), A J Buzza (Redruth), S W Whitworth (Truro); W M Rawding (Berkhamsted), M B Bing (Worthing 6th Form College), N Wyatt (Exeter College), R M Greenwood (Wyedean), A G Blackmore (Bedminster Down), A T Smith (Arle Comprehensive), C T Phillips (Bryanston), S S Bryant (Sherborne).

Melville's operation

Nigel Melville, the Wasps captain and scrum half, expects to have a second operation next week to remove the remains of a cartilage.

BOXING

Feeney is favourite but will take no chances

George Feeney, of Hartlepool, defends his British lightweight title against Paul Chance at Dudley Town Hall tonight, and although current form makes the champion an outstanding favourite, Feeney is well aware that there can be many a slip.

"Every time a title holder makes a voluntary defence, which is what this is", Feeney's manager, Denny Mancini, said yesterday, "he is taking a terrible risk. If he comes through, everyone concerned pats himself on the back. If not, you wonder what the hell made you take the fight in the first place. You've lost and there's no escape. In this case Chance is a good fighter and he will perform above himself because he has nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Feeney looks to good to lose. In the past few years after making an uncertain start to his professional career, he has developed into one of Britain's most reliable boxers. He reached his peak – financial and physical – last year when he went to Italy to meet Ray Mancini, the world lightweight champion, in a non-title contest in which nobody gave him the remotest chance. But, coming from the North-East and being endowed with true grit, Feeney not only survived but gave the champion a hard time. His reward was a further well paid visit to Italy and a bout with the world ranked Howard Davis. Again, he was far from disgraced.

He closed the year decisively by stopping the highly fancied Tony Willis in two minutes on December 3, in the first defence of his British title.

Tony Sibson, due to meet Louis Acaries for the European middleweight title in Paris on February 25, hopes to start sparring for the bout on Monday – less than a month after having the stitches removed from a badly cut eyebrow suffered in his defeat by Don Lee in Atlantic City.

Banjo for Quarless

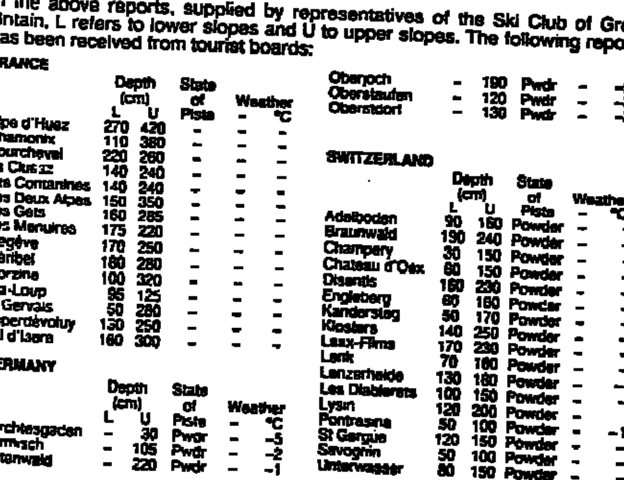
Noel Quarless, the controversial Liverpool heavyweight, has been matched with Funso Banjo in a final eliminator for the British title. It is a piquant match since the unbeaten Banjo, one of the four men to have beaten Quarless, stopped him in eight rounds in February last year – a contest in which Quarless suffered a broken jaw in a clash of heads. The Liverpool boxer will probably be glad of the chance to set the record straight.

The boxing board have also ordered a rematch between the new light-heavyweight champion, Dennis Andries (Hackney) and the man from whom he took the titles, Tom Collins, of Leeds.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to Resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andora-Soldeu	30	130	Fair	Varied	Fair	Snow	–
Lifts closed due to snow							
Andermatt	200	300	Fair	Heavy	Closed	Snow	–4
All runs closed							
Arosa	115	200	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	–4
Snowfalls closed upper slopes							
Grindelwald	60	150	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	–
Lifts open only to 1500m							
Igls	35	110	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	–1
New snow on good base							
Isola 2,000	105	125	Good	Powder	Good	Cold	–7
New snow on good base							
Klosters	140	250	–	–	Closed	Snow	–3
Lifts closed by snow and wind							
La Plagne	210	N/A	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	–3
Limited lifts and runs open							
Murren	165	230	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	–8
Limited runs – avalanche danger							
St Anton	180	330	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	–5
Heavy snowfall for 72 hours							
Tignes	250	360	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	–5
Heavy snow, avalanche risk							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports has been received from tourist boards:



FRANCE

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Alpe d'Huez	270	420	–	–	–
Chamonix	110	380	–	–	–
Courchevel	220	260	–	–	–
La Clusaz	140	240	–	–	–
Les Contamines	140	240	–	–	–
Les Deux Alpes	150	350	–	–	–
Les Gets	160	285	–	–	–
Les Menuires	175	220	–	–	–
Megève	170	250	–	–	–
Méribel	180	280	–	–	–
Morzine	100	320	–	–	–
Pra-Loup	95	125	–	–	–
St Gervais	50	280	–	–	–
Superdévoluy	130	250	–	–	–
Val d'Isère	160	300	–	–	–

GERMANY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Berchtesgaden	–	30	Pwdr	–	–5
Garmisch	–	105	Pwdr	–	–2
Mittenwald	–	220	Pwdr	–	–1
Oberjoch	–	190	Pwdr	–	–5
Oberstaufen	–	120	Pwdr	–	–3
Oberstdorf	–	130	Pwdr	–	–2

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	90	160	Powder	–	–6
Braunwald	150	240	Powder	–	–6
Champery	30	150	Powder	–	–2
Chateau d'Oex	60	150	Powder	–	–2
Disentis	160	230	Powder	–	–5
Engleberg	60	160	Powder	–	–4
Kandersteg	50	170	Powder	–	–4
Klosters	140	250	Powder	–	–6
Laax-Flims	170	230	Powder	–	–1
Lenk	70	180	Powder	–	–3
Lenzerheide	130	180	Powder	–	–6
Les Diablerets	100	150	Powder	–	–3
Lysin	120	200	Powder	–	1
Pontresina	50	100	Powder	–	–11
St Gergue	120	150	Powder	–	–2
Savognin	50	100	Powder	–	–1
Unterwasser	80	150	Powder	–	–2

GOLF

Johnstone five shots clear of the field

Johannesburg (Reuter). – Tony Johnstone, of Zimbabwe, broke away from the other challengers in the second round of the South African open tournament here yesterday, scoring 65, seven under par, to go five shots clear, on 132. One stroke ahead overnight, Johnstone made it all look very easy yesterday, recording seven birdies and never going above par, as the rest faltered and dropped shots.

He enters the third round 12 under par, while his nearest challenger, the American, Bill Buttner, stands alone on 137, after a 67 yesterday. Nicky Price, of South Africa, is another shot back.

LEADING SCORES (South African unless stated): 132: A Johnstone (Zim), 67, 65. 137: R Buttner (US), 70, 67. 138: N Price, 69, 69. 139: I Mosey (GB), 71, 68; F Allem, 69, 70; G Levenson, 68, 71; P Way (GB), 71, 68. 140: J Gonzalez (Br), 71, 69; M McLean (GB), 72, 68; S Hobday, 72, 68; J Bland, 72, 68; H Baiocchi, 69, 71; H Henning, 69, 71. 141: T Britz, 70, 71; A Henning, 70, 71; M McNulty, 76, 65. 142: N Godin (GB), 72, 70; D Sudderds, 70, 72.

● MELBOURNE: The defending champion, Bob Shearer, of Australia, leads after yesterdays first round of the Victorian open tournament (AP reports). He scored 68, four under par, to take a one shot lead. In second place, after a 69, is the American-based Australian, Jamie Crow.

MELBOURNE: Victorian open tournament (Australian unless stated): 68: R Shearer; 69: J Crow; 70: T Gale, R Picker, W Grady, O Moore, G Norman; 71: J Lister (NZ), C Bishop, R Shaw; 72: G Serham, C Stadler (US), I Baker-Finch, R Mackay, J Senior, B Green, D Clarke, (NZ), P Senior, R Davis.

TENNIS

Bates earns praise from national team manager

By Lewine Mair

Paul Hutchins, the Lawn Tennis Association's national team manager, came to the fourth day of the LTA international satellite event at Telford having heard all about Jeremy Bates' dismal attitude as he scraped through his first round against Nick Brown.

The Bates Hutchins saw in yesteday's quarter-finals, though, was a different creature. In defeating Garth Haynes, of the United States, 6-3, 6-1, he was admirably positive, with nothing more impressive than his return of what was a considerable service.

Haynes, who stands 6ft 6in, gave Bates some anxious moments as he came back from 1-4 and 3-4 in the first set but, as the match wore on, he was made to look thoroughly unwieldly as he was chased about the court. Indeed, so frustrated did he become that, before shaking hands, he launched a ball into the courts beyond the spectator aisle.

Hutchins, who is about to name his fourth man for the Davis Cup match which starts at Telford a fortnight today had nothing but praise for the way in which Bates competed against Haynes. "In the right mood," he said, "Jeremy is a fine player. However, rather like John Lloyd, he is only in the right mood if he is happy with the way he is hitting the ball. He's somehow got to learn to work his way through a match on a day when things are not going so well..."

In his semi-final, Bates meets Peter Lundgren, the 19-year-old Swede to whom he lost in three sets in the final of last week's satellite event at Bramhall.

In the other semi-final, Mike Brunnberg, a powerfully built American whose patience is perhaps a little patchy, plays Per Hjertquist. As was to be expected Hjertquist yesterday defeated Fredrick Rosenquist, a fellow Swede, lying 422 places below him on the computer, 6-1, 6-0.

QUARTER FINALS: P Lundgren (Swe) bt G Layendecker (US) 7-6, 6-1; J Bates (GB) bt G Haynes (US) 6-3, 6-1; M Brunnberg (US) bt R Green (US) 6-3, 7-6; P Hjertquist (Swe) bt F Rosenquist (Swe) 6-1, 6-0.

Rocky Vasquez, of America, was last night at Telford fined $75 (£53) for what Tony Gathercole, the tournament referee, described as a "disgusting display of anger" after Vasquez and Jacques Manset had lost 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 to Brian Levine and Mike Brunnberg. Besides using abusive language Vasquez hurled and kicked his racket, struck a ball violently at a sidewall and then proceeded to kick and shake the chair still occupied by Tony Little, the umpire.

● Quito, Reuter – Andres Gomez, the world's 10th ranked player, will lead Ecuador's attempt to topple Sweden, the 1983 runners-up, in their first round Davis Cup tie later this month.

IN BRIEF

Sports Council nets extra £2m in grant aid

The Government is to increase its grant to the Sports council by more than £2 million this year.

Sports Minister Neil Macfarlane, in a Commons written reply yesterday, said the grant would be £29,359,000 compared with £27,123,000 in 1983-84. The grant includes £500,000 specifically for Merseyside.

TENNIS: American Tim Gullikson fought back from three set points to defeat second-seeded Yannick Noah of France 7-6, 6-4 in the second round of the 250,000 dollar US National Indoor Tennis Championship in Memphis.

SNOOKER: Eddie Sinclair, the Scottish number one, easily qualified for the final stages of the £65,000 Yamaha International Masters' snooker tournament.

Sinclair won both his qualifying group matches in Batley yesterday, defeating Ray Edmonds and John Hargreaves 2-1, to go through to join the group headed by Terry Griffiths, the number eight seed, when the competition proper begins in Derby on February 27.

HANDBALL: Britain scored their first victory in the world championships, when they beat the Faroe Islands 21-19 in their C group match in Italy. The victory, secured in the dying seconds with a goal from top-scorer Billy Hayburn (6), followed defeats at the hands of Austria (32-12) and the Netherlands (22-13).

SQUASH RACKETS

Army aiming to break their own record

By Rex Bellamy

The 50th inter-services championship is on the point of reaching a second interesting landmark at Lee on Solent today. The Army shold beat the Royal Navy with something to spare and surpass their own record by winning the title for a 10th consecutive year. The only Service who habitually keep their feet on the ground, they have so far won 32 championships. The Royal Air Force have won 11 and the Navy six.

The RAF, beaten 4-1 by the Army yesterday, had the usual insoluble problem. The Army's first three strings are Robbie Robinson, who have played twice for England, Chris Wilson, whose 106 Scottish caps yesterday earned him a commemorative silver plate from the Combined Services SRA, and Neil Stewart who vaguely confesses to "about 67" appearances for Scotland. All won in straight games yesterday, though Dave Clarke had a game ball against Robinson.

Clarke suspects that he plays better when coming off the night shift. This may partly explain why he played better on Wednesday when half asleep than he did yesterday when wide awake. He is a large man whose joints and intervening connexions seem to have a telescopic capacity for extension under stress. This was often evident yesterday because he was usually under stress. Remorselessly punishing and tidy, Robinson finished him off with the calculated flourish of a nicked backhand drop.

Stewart, mixing the long and short games with low, wall-hugging precision, had put the Army ahead, comnceding only two points to Nigel Giffin. Both are left-handed, so there was an odd impression of a mirrot image. The Long-limbed Steve Gascoyne, a newcomer from the RAF Under 25 team had won his match against the Navy and, yesterday, obliged again. He put the RAF level with a strenuous 10-8, 9-2, 7-9, 10-8 win over Clark Adam, who came back from 2-7 to 8-7 in the fourth game.

Robinson then made it 2-1 and Dick Sharkey, taking time off from presumably sadistic labours as a PTI, won the deciding point by beating the Combined Services Under 25 champion, Mick Leonard who led 8-6 in the first game but lost it. There was nothing to be done about Sharkey's masked, match-winning backhand, which sped cross-court into the nick alongside the service box.

Robinson (the older), Wilson and Clarke will eventually be among the competitors in the Jesters Trophy tournament – the spiritual successor to the old amateur championship beginning today at the Heathfield club in north west London.

RESULTS: in strings' order (Army names first): R Robinson bt D Clarke 9-2, 10-8, 9-2; C Wilson bt L Arthur 9-0, 9-5, 9-4; N Stewart bt N Giffin 9-1, 9-1, 9-0; R Sharkey bt M Leonard 10-8, 9-4, 9-6; C Adam lost to S Gascoyne 8-10, 2-9, 9-7, 8-10.

FOOTBALL

Mariner's £150,000 move to Arsenal brings about Ferguson's saddest loss

Arsenal yesterday completed the £150,000 signing of the England forward, Paul Mariner, from Ipswich Town. Mariner agreed terms with the London club, and is due to return to Highbury for a medical today. He has been on the transfer list for the last four months, and wanted more money than the £50,000 a year he was reportedly receiving at Ipswich.

The Ipswich manager, Bobby Ferguson, said: "I am sick to be losing Paul. He is another class player we have had to let go. Of all the players I have sold, Paul is the one I am saddest about."

Mariner was originally on the transfer list for £500,000, but the East Anglian club accepted Arsenal's offer because of their rising debts. Mariner aged 30, is recovering from an ankle injury, but will not be fit for Arsenal's trip to Liverpool tomorrow.

Mariner joined Ipswich in October 1976, for £200,000, after spending three years at Plymouth Argyle, where he scored 61 goals in 158 games. He made his England debut against Luxembourg, in a World Cup match at Wembley in March 1977, coming on as subsitiute for Joe Royle at half-time. Since then, he has accumulated 33 caps and scored 13 times, including goals in five consecutive matches.

For Ipswich, Mariner has made more than 300 appearances, scoring 123 goals. He is the team's top scorer this season with 13.

● Brentford yesterday appointed Frank McLintock as their manager, in succession to Fred Callaghan, who was dismissed last Thursday. McLintock, currently on the Queen's Park Rangers coaching staff, captained Arsenal during their 1970/71 league and cup double season, and also played for Scotland.

McLintock's assistant manager will be John Docherty, the former Cambridge United manager. It will be Docherty's fifth spell at Griffin Park. He was there three times as a player, and once as manager. Frank Blunstone, the current assistant manager, is leaving the club.

McLintock said: "I have joined Brentford because I am very impressed with the chairman and the set-up generally. The club has got tremendous potential, more than many in the second division and even some in the first division. I am delighted that John Docherty has joined me as my assistant."

● Newcastle United may report Portsmouth to the Football League, for making an illegal approach to their captain, Kevin Keegan. Portsmouth's millionaire chairman, John Deakon, has publicly stated that he wants the former England captain when his contract with Newcastle ends in the summer. Newcastle believe this constitutes a breach of League rules.

The Newcastle manager, Arthur Cox, said yesterday: "There is no way that Portsmouth, or any other club for that matter, will b allowed permission to talk to Kevin while he is under contract to this club. In fact, permission will be definitely refused. We have already told Mr Decon that in no circumstances will Portsmouth or any other club talk to him."

● Torquay's new manager, Dave Webb, has given his five most senior professionals free tranfers. Webb said yesterday: "They're the ones holding the strongest contracts, and I need to bring in new, younger players."


Mariner: his four-month wait is over.

Chairman who will hold on to his chair

By Paul Newman

Jim Thompson plans to remain chairman of the Alliance Premier League whatever the outcome of the boardroom wranglings at his club, Maidstone United. Mr Thompson had been ousted by his fellow directors from his position as chairman of Maidstone and has been replaced by the former vice-chairman, Cyril Nicholls.

Alliance League rules state that their chairman has to be either a director of a member club or a life member of the league and Mr Thompson qualifies on both counts. Despite having been voted out of the chairmanship of Maidstone, he remains a director. He is also a life member of the Alliance League.

Mr Thompson has been taking legal advice and neither he nor Mr Nicholls would comment on the boardroom changes at Maidstone. A statement issued by the board said only that discussions were continuing between Mr Thompson and the club.

● The Isthmian League management committee have recommended the acceptance of 21 of the 33 clubs that have applied for membership next season. All the clubs have been told, however, that they must carry out ground improvements before they can be accepted.

The 21 clubs accepted by the Isthmian League management committee are (Athenian League unless stated): Banstead, Berkhamsted, Bracknell, Camberley, (London Spartan), Chalfont St Peter, Chertsey, Edgware, Flackwell Heath, Harefield, Hanngey, Heybridge Swifts (Essex Senior), Hoddesdon, Marlow, Petersfield (Hampshire), Redhill, Saffron Walden (Eastern Counties), Stevenage Borough (United Counties), Thatcham, Wolverton, Whyteleafe.

● Telford United have five players – more than any other club – in the England semi-professional squad for the annual four-nations tournament, to be held in Italy in June.

SQUAD: D Barnett, K Charlton, D Edwards, K Lewis, C Williams (Telford), J Bartley, M Newson, B Thompson, J Watson (Maidstone), N Golley, M Joyce, P McKinnon, A Rains (Sutton United), D Constantine, J Davison, J Johnson (Altrincham), D Clarke, P Robinson, J Sirk (Blyth Spartans), N Ashford, K Barrett, N Ironton (Enfield), S Emmanuel, C Forde, D Pearce (Harrow), P Culpin, J Glover, T Morley (Nuneaton), P Bowgett, A Cordice, M Graves (Wealdstone), G Phillips, E Stain (Barnet), B Magee, N Sellars (Scarborough), P Moss, M Tuohy (Worcester), M Docherty, J Ward (Yeovil), P Casey (Boston United), J Sills (Dagenham), J Powell (Kidderminster), M McGrory (Leytonstone/Ilford), G Tobin (Macclesfield), A Harrison (North Shields), C Chasten (Northwich Victoria), D Smith (Runcorn), G Pearson (Weymouth).

● John King, the former Altrincham captain, has been named manager of the Alliance Premier League club. King, who had been enjoying a highly successful first season in management with South Liverpool in the Northern Premier League, succeeds Tony Sanders, who resigned last month for business reasons.

King's successor at South Liverpool is Brian Griffiths, the former Burscough and Formby manager. In other Northern Premier League managerial changes, Sean Gallagher, formerly with Lancaster City and Workington, has taken over at Morecambe in place of Les Rigby, and Evan Sutherland, formerly with Lowestoft, Alfreton and Belper Town, succeeds Mick Davis at Buxton.

● Yeovil Town, of the Alliance League, have appointed Steve Coles manager until the end of the season. Coles, previously manager of Yeovil's Western League side, took over as caretaker manager after Trevor Finnigan's resignation in December. Yeovil won seven of their first eight matches under Coles.

● John Connolly, who resigned as manager of Blyth Spartans in November, has been appointed manager of another Northern League club, Whitley Bay.

● Wayne Biggins, the Matlock Town forward, has been sold for a four-figure fee to Burnley, who recently signed Kevin Glendon from another Northern Premier League club, Hyde United. Andy Feeley, a midfield player, has joined Leicester City from Trowbridge Town, who will receive a small initial fee and £10,000 if the player makes more than 40 first team appearances.

Platini to stay

Turin (AFP) – Rumours that Michel Platini, the European Footballer of the Year, could be leaving Juventus were ended yesterday when it was announced here that he had signed a new two-year contract.

Search for new Welsh FA home

By Peter Walker

Not for the first time in their history the Football Association of Wales has ducked the issue. Pressed by the Football Trust, who have £500,000 of grant money lying idle waiting for the FAW to nominate a national ground, the council have decided to set up yet another working party to examine the pros and cons of Ninian Park, home of Cardiff City and the Racecourse Ground where Wrexham play.

A six man sub-committee headed by the president, Selwyn Jankins and, significantly, including two North Wales representatives and two from the South are due to report by August on which of the two grounds is most suitable for development. If and when the full council accept their recommendations then the headquarters of the Football Association of Wales will be moved from its present premises in Fairy Road, Wrexham, to the ground.

The implications, according to the FAW secretary, Alun Evans, are that the association would purchase the ground from the football club for, as he says, "We could not entertain the idea of being tenants of one of our members."

At present Border Breweries possess the freehold of the Racecourse Ground while Kenton Utilities, an engineering company based in the North East, control Cardiff City and hold a 67-year lease on Ninian Park from Cardiff City Council.

Definitely ruled out, or at least as definite as things can be in the FAW – is any future use either permanent or on a one-off basis of the national rugby ground in Cardiff. The council were very firm on this decision. I understand that an outright vote to move lock stock and barrel to Ninian Park taken at Wednesday's eight hour council meeting was only defeated by 10 votes to nine with five abstentions!

Cardiff City would certainly welcome discussions about selling out and the managing director, Ron Jones said that so far as he could see there were no major problems. The state of the pitch at Ninian Park, which also caters for rugby league, has attracted a great deal of adverse criticism recently but according to Mr Jones this is easily resolved. "We would simply have to relocate the rugby code at a different venue".

Cardiff City's current overdraft is a relatively modest one, at around the £250,000 mark, but it is public knowledge that the Newcastle-based chairman and most of his board would not be unhappy to sell out and reap the benefits of a half a million pounds face lift that the FAW in conjunction with the Football Trust would undertake at Ninian Park should they decide to move south after 100 years of argument.

Realistically the Racecourse Ground must be regarded as very much a second best alternative both geographically and in population terms

Wylie face to face with the lost pride of Albion

West Bromwich Albion players face a stern confrontation with their manager, Ron Wylie, today after their 5–0 home defeat against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday.

"It's not my style to blast players in public, but I will have something strong to say when I see each of them face-to-face", Wylie, who described his team's performance as "disgusting", said. "I believe they want to play for me and I am certain I can pick them up on Saturday. It is essential we get our pride back because it is the last game before our FA Cup fifth round tie with Plymouth".

Wylie, who was barracked by a section of the crowd last night, added: "I sympathise with them, but whether their criticism is fair or unfair is for the birds and bees.

To add to Wylie's problems Cyrille Regis injured knee ligaments against Forest and is doubtful for Saturday. But his fellow attacker, Garry Thompson, who was kicked on the head and received two stitches in a cut lip, is expected to face Everton.

Wylie: disgusted

The Tottenham centre-half, Graham Roberts, may have played himself into the England team for the forthcoming international against France with a sterling display in front of the national manager, Bobby Robson. Strong, quick and rugged, he was at his committed best as Spurs defeated Sunderland 3–0 at White Hart Lane on Wednesday night.

Stein will set a loyalty test

The Scotland manager, Jock Stein, looks likely to be drawn into a conflict with the Scottish League following the decision to rearrange the dates of the League Cup semi-final between Aberdeen and Celtic.

The League have nominated February 29 for the second leg of the tie – the day after Scotland meet Wales in a British Championship match at Hampden Park.

Peter Donald, assistant secretary of the SFA, said that Aberdeen and Celtic, whose players form the nucleus of Stein's squad, will have to apply to the SFA if they want them released for the League Cup semi-final. But he stressed that it was then up to the SFA's international committee to decide whether to let the players go.

SCOTTISH CUP: Revised fourth round draw: Cowdenbeath or Dundee v Airdrie or St Johnstone; Dundee United v Hearts; Clyde v Aberdeen or Kilmarnock; East Fife v Celtic; Morton v Dumbarton; Motherwell v Clydebank or Brechin; Meadowbank or St Mirren v Hamilton; Inverness Caledonian or Stirling or Arbroath v Rangers.

CRICKET

Tavaré mysteriously omitted by England

From Derek Hodgson, Auckland

Chris Tavaré was dropped from England's team for the third Test match which started at Eden Park here today. The new opening pair will be Fowler and Smith, the third combination in as many Tests, while Gower will take Tavaré's key place at first slip.

Willis, the captain, in announcing the 12, who include the off spinner, Marks, admitted that it was a wrench to leave out Tavaré: "He's a proven Test match player who hasn't got going on this tour. He's in very poor form and not in confident mood".

The change is probably less of a surprise in England than in Auckland's sunshine. Tavaré has reached double figures only three times in 12 first-class innings on this tour and only once in four Test innings. But his career average over 23 tests is 32. 19 and at a time when England, one would have thought, needed every ounce of experience and concentration, his omission is a mystery.

He has served England well since being reluctantly pushed up the order, from his established No 3 position, once Gooch and Boycott defected. He has missed nothing at first slip on this tour and taken several excellent catches. His absence will mean a further weakening of the England close field in comparison to New Zealand's.

Willis would not be drawn on the final team. Foster is regarded as fully fit, although he had to limp into the New Zealand board dinner last evening. So much effort has gone into preparing him this week that he is surely to play, which suggests that the last place lies between Marks or Gatting. The captain does not believe that the pitch will turn at any stage in the next five days.

ENGLAND (from): G Fowler, C L Smith, G I Gower, A J Lamb, M W Gatting, I T Botham, D W Randall, V J Marks, R W Taylor, Foster, R G Willis, N G Cowans.
NEW ZEALAND (from): J G Wright, B A Edgar, G P Howarth, M D Crowe, J J Crowe, J V Coney, R J Hadlee, B L Cairns, D S Smith, E Chatfield, S L Boock, D Stirling.

Australian players hold out

Sydney (AFP) – The Australian cricket team yesterday again refused to sign contracts for the five-Test tour of the West Indies which begins next week.

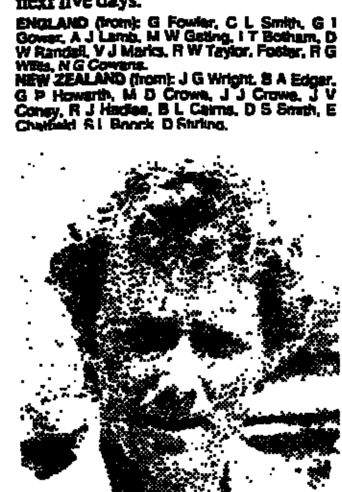
A fourth meeting between the players, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) and solicitors of both parties is expected to resolve the crisis in Melbourne today.

The Australian captain, Kim Hughes, said after yesterday's two-and-a-half hour meeting in Sydney: "We have not held a gun at the head of the Australian Cricket Board. The players want to play for the ACB. It is not a matter of money. It is not compensation. It's the principle. The problem will be resolved one way or another in Melbourne tomorrow."

Although Hughes went to pains to say that there was no threat involved, observers were sceptical. The players have made proposals for changes to the tour contract and if the ACB remain steadfast and refuse to agree to the changes then it seems inevitable that invitations to tour will be withdrawn from the players still determined not to sign the contract.

The main point of issue concerns a clause in the contract which commits the players to the end of May, 1985 which guaranteed the players money for marketing and promotional work as well as the tour of Australia by the West Indies next summer.

The majority of players want their contracts to apply merely for the period of the four months including the tour of the West Indies. The ACB chairman, Fred Bennett, was optimistic yesterday but there was a stubborn attitude within the team. The wrangle has been going on for over a fortnight and looms as one of the worst crises the ACB have faced in recent years.


Hughes: "Not a matter of money"

● KARACHI (Reuter) – Zaheer Abbas has been fined "a token" $150 by the Pakistan Cricket Control Board (BCCP) for a breach of the players' code of conduct, a BCCp spokesman said yesterday.

The fine is the result of an article by Zaheer which appeared in the Dawn newspaper last month saying the Pakistan team "performed like a bunch of nincompoops" on their tour of Australia.

● Drumpellier bowler William McPate and Aberdeenshine wicket-keeper Jack Knight have been called into Scotland's cricket squad for this year's Benson and Hedges Cup.

The squad's preparation begins with a training weekend at Inverclyde from March 30 to April 1 followed by two one day games against Worcestershire at Worcester on April 21 and 22. Their first Cup match is against Northants on May 5.

SQUAD: A Brown (Uddingston), W A Donald (Epsom), H G F Johnston (Uddingston), A S K Ker (Heriots FP), J Ker (Heriots FP), J D Night (Aberdeenshire), W A McPate (Drumpellier), D De Neef (Aberdeenshire), T B Racionzer (Clydesdale), R G Swan (Carlton), C J Warner (Grange), R S Weir (Greenock).

ATHLETICS

Britain's starlets aim for new heights

By Pat Butcher

A small, young but exciting team are being assembled for the European indoor championships in Gothenburg on March 3 and 4, with only th slightest criticism being reserved for the British Amateur Athletic Board selection policy. Jayne Christian, of Liverpool, after her win over the world sprint champion, Marlies Göhr, at Cosford last week, joins Beverley Kinch, Britain's World Student Games 100 metres champion, in the 60 metres at Gothenburg.

Further additions to the team are Derrick Brown (long jump) and Lynn MacDougall (1,500 metres), winners in the match against the French last weekend; plus Simone Jacobs (200 metres) and Geoff Parsons (high jump). There are two further possibles in Iken Billy, last year's European junior 800 metres champion, and Dave Lewis (3,000 metres). They are running in Los Angeles this weekend and if they achieve the qualifying times they will go to Gothenburg.

None of these atheletes is over 22 years of age and in the absence from the British indoor scene of stars like Cram, Wells, Ovett, Coe and Elliott, the youngsters have risen to the offer of team places with an enthusiasm that their age demands. With Ade Mafe, the men's sprint revelation of the season, and the reemergent Sue Hearnshaw in the long jump, last year's championship tally of three silver medals, itself the best for four years, could be surpassed.

The groundswell of talent in the country has contradicted what originally looked like a more limited choice for the BAAB, but even so they preempted the choice of Eric McCalla and Aston Moore, who triple-jumped 16.86 metres and 16.75 metres last weekend, by nominating John Herbert last month on the strength of 16.33 metres, and leaving a place open for Keith Connor.

McCalla and Moore accept the vagaries of performance, and in fact, McCalla is inured as a result of last week's exertions, but both decided to drop plans for Gothenburg, when they were told that only two places were available.

Running a mile for £22,600

If ever athletes in a race – that most individuals of pursuits – had a reason for working as a team for NZ$50,000 (£22,600) must be as good as any. That is the sum being offered to Peter Eliott, of Britain, John Walker, of New Zealand, and any other runner in a mile race at Wanganui, North Island, on February 25, if the winning time is under 3min 50sec.

The race is to be run on a grass track, but that is not necessarily a deterrent, since it was at Wanganui that Peter Snell, the New Zealand triple Olympic gold medal winner, set his world mile record of 3:54.4 in 1962. Snell also achieved world 800 metres and 880 yards records on a grass track.

The question is whether Walker, the former world mile record holder and Olympic 1,500 metres champion, and Elliott are up to that sort of time at this stage of the season. Walker was the first man to break 3:50 in 1975, and his best time of 3:49.08 dated from two years ago.

Elliott is a novice at the distance, although his first serious attempt at 1,500 metres, in New Zealand two weeks ago, reduced his best by over 10 seconds to 3:38.84 the equivalent of around 3:55 for the mile. Sebastian Coe holds the current mile world record, with 3:47.33.

The prize money has caused some consternation in official quarters, since, theoretically, only "participation money" is allowed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, but New Zealand is one of three countries, with Italy and the United States, who have been given a dispensation by the IAAF for a grand prix circuit.

The prize, which has also been called "a gimmick" by British athletics officials, is the idea of Russell Sears, a New Zealand promoter.

BOWLS

Sutherland beats man fancied for the final

By Gordon Allan

Bob Sutherland, of Scotland, the defending champion, reached the sem-final round of the world indoor championship, sponsored by Embassy, at Coatbridge yesterday. He beat a man who had been quietly fancied by many observers to appear in the final, Cliff Simpson, of England, 21-11, in a match of high skill that was closer than the cold details of the score indicate.

Sutherland knows the Coatbridge green intimately and he proved it once more. The surface is the same as it is at Simpson's home club at Hartlepool. But Simpson, although he played well in spasms, usually on the long jacks, was always searching for his best form – and not often finding it – after seeing an early 6-2 lead vanish.

By winning 14 of the 21 ends played, Sutherland was able to control the jack, and he bowled to his favourite shorter distance. He rarely if ever faltered. The initiative shifted inexorably away from Simpson, whose ability and battling spirit he respects.

In the match between the youngest competitor and the oldest, Nigel Smith, aged 19, who plays for the Andre club at Tolworth, Surrey, beat Tom Beattie, aged 62, a Scot, who lives in Guernsey, 21-8. Smith meets Willie Wood, the Commonwealth Games singles champion, in the quarter finals today.

Smith, who wins his first England cap next month, said he had little sleep or breakfast before the match, but once on the green he forgot his anxieties. It was the first time he had played under the television lights. He always had the upper hand of Beattie, a Scottish international of the 1957 vintage, scoring mainly in singles but collecting a four to stretch his lead to 10 shots near the end.

FIRST ROUND: W Wood (Scotland) D Brown (Can) 15 (played on Wednesday); N Smith (Eng) 21, T Beattie (Guernsey) 8.
SECOND ROUND: R Sutherland (Scot) 21, C Simpson (Eng) 11.

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL

FIRST DIVISION: Tottenham 3, Sunderland 0; West Bromwich 0, Nottingham Forest 5.

FOURTH DIVISION: Chester 0, Swindon 3.

SCOTTISH CUP: Second round, second replay: Arbroath 1, Stirling Albion 2. Third round: Clydebank 0, Brechin City 0; Cowdenbeath 0, Dundee 2. Third round, second replay: Meadowbank 1, St Mirren 2. Postponed: Airdrieonians v St Johnstone (Monday) Aberdeen v Kilmarnock (Monday).
SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Dunfermline 1, Montrose 1.
WELSH CUP: Fifth round: Barry Town 1, Swansea City 1; Kidderminster 1, Shrewsbury 1.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Mossley 2, Goole 0.

INTERNATIONAL: Algeria 1, Romania 1 (in Algiers).
ITALIAN CUP: Fifth round first leg: Juventus 1, Bari 2; Avellino 1, Verona 0; Cesena 1, Fiorentina 1, AS Roma 2, Reggiana 0; Sampdoria 1, Ascoli 0; Triestina 0, Udine 0; Varese 1, Torino 0.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0; Bolton Wanderers 2, Nottingham Forest 3; Sheffield United 3, Everton 7; Second division: Barnsley v Coventry City, postponed.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Norwich City 6, Bristol Rovers 0; Queen's Park Rangers 1, Chelsea 0; Oxford United 2, Crystal Palace 0.

FA TROPHY: First round: Bishop Auckland 1, Grantham 1. Second round replay: Nuneaton 1, Maidstone 0; Yeovil 1, Dagenham 4.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: RS Southampton 2, Crawley 0.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy, 3rd round, 1st leg: Scarborough 1, Frickley 0.
KENTISH CUP: Belgian Armed Forces 1, British Armed Forces 2.
UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Keele 2, Kent 2 (after extra time); Swansea 0, Loughborough 2.
SCHOOLS: Brentwood 0, Cambridge Univ Falcons 0; Cardinal Vaughan 5, Campion 0; Chigwell 2, Enfield GS 1; Douai 0, Oratory 2; King Edward's Witley 2, Christ's Hospital 2.
ENGLISH SCHOOLS TROPHY: 7th round: Leeds 1, Rotherham 2 (winners meet Swindon in semi-final).

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Milwaukee Bucks 113, New York Knicks 103; Chicago Bulls 114, New Jersey Nets 110; Philadelphia 76ers 118, Houston Rockets 107; Cleveland Cavaliers 119, Golden State Warriors 108; Los Angeles Lakers 111, Boston Celtics 109; Kansas City Kings 118, San Antonio Spurs 110; Dallas Mavericks 120, Denver Nuggets 114; Portland Trail Blazers 114, San Diego Clippers 105.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Washington Capitals 6, Calgary Flames 1; Buffalo Sabres 6, Pittsburgh Penguins 5; Toronto Maple Leafs 6, Boston Bruins 4; New York Rangers 3, Winnipeg Jets 1; Los Angeles Kings 1, Chicago Black Hawks 0.

SNOOKER

BATLEY: Yamaha International Masters tournament: qualifying rounds: C Roscoe bt J Johnson, 2-0; D French bt Johnson 2-0; French bt Roscoe, 2-0. French qualifies.

TENNIS

MEMPHIS: US national indoor championships: Second round (US unless stated): P Fleming bt S Scanlon, 6-4, 6-4. W Fibak bt H Sundstrom (Swe), 6-3, 6-1; E Teltscher bt V Amritraj (India), 6-3, 6-2; K Curren (SA) bt S Glickstein (Isr), 6-4, 6-4; R Krishnan (India) bt V Gerulaitis, 7-5, 6-4; B Testerman bt M Purcell, 6-4, 6-4; Tim Gullikson bt Y Noah (Fra), 7-5, 6-4.
CHICAGO: Virginia Slims tournament (US unless stated): First round: W White bt P Louie, 6-4, 6-3; B Potter bt R Fairbank (SA), 6-2, 6-3; H Sukova (Cz) bt P Paradis (Fr), 7-5, 6-3; W Turnbull (Aus) bt M Maleeva (Bul), 6-2, 6-4. Second round: P Shriver bt E Pfaff (WG), 7-6, 6-2; B Gadusek bt L Bonder, 6-2, 6-1.

HANDBALL

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: C group (in Italy): Italy 25, Luxembourg 19 (at Caserta); Israel 22, Belgium 21 (at Naples); Finland 64, Ireland 4 (at Scalea); Austria 26, Faroe Isles 19 (at Rovereto); Turkey 25, Britain 15 (at Bressanone); Bulgaria 20, Netherlands 20 (at Rovereto)

BADMINTON: The Scottish team to meet Ireland in Lisburn on February 16 includes Alison Fulton who, like Gillian Gilks, has had her rows with the national squad selectors. The match will be used as preparation for the women's team world championships later this year.

The number one in men's singles, Alex White, played in last night's match against the Netherlands in Sittard, but the number two, Gordon Hamilton, has given way to Ken Middlemiss for the fixture in Ireland.

TEAM: Men's singles: A White, K Middlemiss. Women's singles: A Fulton. Men's doubles: W Gilliland/White, A Baker/Middlemiss. Women's doubles: Mrs Fulton/Johnson. Mixed doubles: Gilliland/C Heatly.

ATHLETICS: An all-weather track and field stadium, costing almost £250,000 is to be built at Tweedbank near Galasheils.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
Third division
Scunthorpe v Newport

HOCKEY
EUROPEAN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (at

BOWLS
COATBRIDGE: World indoor championship (10.30)

TENNIS
TELFORD: Men's satellite tournament

BOXING

CYCLING

Moser out to make amends

From John Wilcockson
Paris

For the regular members of the winter racing season, the Paris Six-day that ended late Wednesday night in victory for Gert Frank, of Denmark, and Bernard Vallet, of France, meant more than just another race. France is the home of cycling, and the Paris Six was the keystone to European track racing until the demolition 25 years ago of its spiritual home, the Vel' d' Hiv' Stadium.

In the newly opened Palais Omnisport de Paris-Bercy – a modern sports edifice built in the style of the Aztecs – the 36 competitors in the thirty-sixth Paris Six proved that today's racers are perhaps faster, and just as entertaining as the heroes of the past.

The race was brought to an exciting conclusion by an old fashioned 100-minute team race. A full house enjoyed the perseverance of Francesco Moser, of Italy, in his repeated attacking efforts, and the spectacular sprints of Frank, the senior partner of the winning combination. But the patriotic crowd most enjoyed the raw enthusiasm of Vallet, whose last big international success was the King of Mountains title in the 1982 Tour de France.

The Frenchman's win was mainly due to the connivance of several specialist track riders, including Oersted, of Denmark, Kristen of West Germany and Britain's Tony Doyle.

It was a memorable race in a season that comes to a conclusion with the Milan Six-day, that begins tomorrow. After his setback in Paris, Moser will be anxious to reestablish his slightly tarnished reputation.

Doyle, also, will be hoping for a better result after nursing the Irishman Stephen Roche to an eventual tenth place on Wednesday

Result: 1, B Vallet (Fr) and G Frank (Den) 289 pts; 2, F Moser (It) and D Thurau (WG) 258; 3, (at one lap) S Tourne and E Dewilde (Bel) 336; 4, (at 6 laps) A Bondue (Fr) and G Braun (WG) 218; 5, M Bidinost (It) and D Gisinger (Switz) 98; 6, G Saronni and M Bincoletto (It) 58. Other placings: 10, (at 18 laps) S Roche (Ireland) and A

HOCKEY

Late changes forced on three countries

By Sydney Friskin

Scotland, West Germany and theNetherlands have been forced to make late changes because of injury for the European indoor championship, sponsored by Glenfiddich, which starts today at the Meadowbank sports centre, Edinburgh. In Scotland's case the change is not crucial, Robin Plevin giving way to Brian Edwards. Both are from Murray International Metal.

West Germany, the holders, have lost Hanel, a resourceful midfield player. In his place come Michael Peter, one of the shrewdest compaingers of his time, both indoors and outdoors. The Dutch, too, have lost a valuable midfield schemer, Van't Hek and his place has been taken by Van Hout. From all appearances these two teams should battle it out for the gold and silver medals.

The tournment ends on Sunday with the eagerly awaited match between Scotland and England, starting at 1.05pm. The starting times of all matches on this day have been advanced because of flight schedule alterations. Four years ago at Zurich, England, having beaten The Netherlands, were in line for the silver medal when they faced Scotland; but the Scots won a thrilling match 7-6 to clinch the bronze medal.

The teams met last month in the Home Countries championship at the same venue when England, the eventual title winners were held to a 4-4 draw.

If Engand, led by Clarke of Tulse Hill capitalise on their corners they, too should have a chane of a medal. But both the Italians and the French have improved more

Today's matches: Netherlands v Italy (4pm): England v France (4.55); W Germany v Scotland (5.45).

Chance for Midlands

By Joyce Whitehead

Two Midland counties are in with a chance for the National County Championship being played this weekend at the Euro Sports Village, Ipswich. Leicestershire are the holders and therefore Warwickshire, the runners-up in that territory, join the county champions of East, West, North and South to make the numbers even in the finals.

The teams play in two pools: A – Leicestershire, Cheshire and Suffolk, B – Middlesex, Somerset and Warwickshire. Suffolk and Leicestershire are the only two who competed last year and both have played in the finals several times. Suffolk won in 1982 and Leicester in 1983.

On paper, Leicestershire have an impressive forward line of Woodward, Gordon, Parker, Cheetham and Grimley. The first two were recently selected for England, Parker and Grimley are present and past England B players and Cheetham is the player with a deadly shot at a penalty stroke.

Warwickshire have a useful half back line in the two internationals, ... (Sutton), and Maloney (Sutton). Since the start of the season this team has dropped Flemming (Rugby) and promoted Harvey (Olton) as a back. The responsibility for goals will rest largely on the sticks of Scott-Miller (Hampton in Arden) and the captain, Fiddes (Sutton).

Cheshire, the North's champions, have good team work and Dudley, the England B player from Chester, could cause some surprises but Suffolk, playing at home with Bray a constant danger to opposing defences, will not miss any opportunties.

Somerset, including the West's captin Franks (Cwmbran), will make every effort to put the West back on the map after some disappointing results in the rectnt territorial matches.

Middlesex, with the captian, Cannell, and five other players from Ealing and three from Winchmore Hill, completed with Parker (Slough) and Stother (Eastcote), make a strong united team in which Harding will be a danger on the wing.

TABLE TENNIS

Prean can challenge Douglas's record

By a Special Correspondent

Carl Prean, the 16-year-old who lifted his boycott of the plastic ball for next month's Norwich Union English Closed Championships at Bletchley, has been seeded number two in the draw made yesterday, and is, therefore, presumably regarded as the player most likely to stop Desmond Douglas achieving the all-time record of seven titles.

This might ordinarily make sense were it not for the fact that Prean was omitted from the first three places for the England squad for the European Championships in Moscow in April. More anomalous still, that decision was made at the end of the Norwich Union English Open – at almost the same time that the new computer rankings, upon which yesterday's seedings were based, were confirming the youngster from the Isle of Wight as the country's number two player.

The seedings also confirm, therefore, that Prean's omission must have been made on something other than playing criteria. When asked if it had been made upon political criteria, Peter Charters, the chairman of the selectors, replied cannily that it had nothing to do with Prean's boycott of the plastic ball.

But this may, in a sense, have been true, but unfortunately a boycott of an event like the English Open also involves a boycott on a team event – and that technically means a refusal to play for England. Some of the selectors are now known to have regarded that as a very serious transgression indeed.

It would, though, be a far sadder state of affairs if because of all this Prean does not find his way into the last two places to be announced after the Closed Championship. Douglas, who strongly supports Prean's view on plastic balls, has also expressed the opinion that there should be no grudges and that on merit Prean should definitely be selected.

If it is to depend upon forthcoming results then the outcome may be problematic. Prean is likely to have the hardest possible semi-final, against Graham Sandley, the number three who came in so effectively in England's European League Team and who already the comfort of knowing he has been selected for the European Championships as well.

SEEDINGS: Men: 1, D Douglas; 2, C Prean; 3, G Sandley; 4, A Cooke; 5, S Andrew; 6, P Bradbury; 7, J Hilton; 8, K Jackson. Women: 1, K Witt; 2, L Bellinger; 3, J Grundy; 4, A Gordon.

● Budapest (Reuter) – The former world champion, Tibor Klampar of Hungary, has been suspended for one year by his club, Budapest Spartacus, for indiscipline. The club have asked the Hungarian federation to bar him from all events at home and abroad after he played in a paid exhibition match near Budapest rather than the Hungarian national championships. He withdrew from the championships with a supposed shoulder injury.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes on defensive

By Keith Macklin

Widnes officials yesterday took up defensive positions in the club-versus-country dispute which has resulted in a summons to appear before the management committee on Wednesday.

When the Great Britain team to play France next Friday was announced, only one Widnes player, John Basnett, was included out of 10 Widnes players in the 41-strong squad. The explanation given by Myler, the coach, was that only Basnett of the 10 turned up for Tuesday night training.

The Widnes coaching staff, mindful of the Challenge Cup first-round ties this weekend, had instructed the players to train at Naughton Park rather than with the Great Britain squad. Myler has made it clear that the nine Widnes players who failed to arrive forfeited their chances of playing against France.

At Naughton Park yesterday the Widnes general manager, Ronnis Close, was anxious not to say too much before the management committee hearing; but he made it clear that the Widnes coaches, Vince Karalius and Harry Dawson, wanted a full training period for Sunday's cup tie with Dewsbury.

They had applied verbally to the Rugby League for permission to withdraw their players from Great Britain training. This was refused. Close said there were other absentees from training and yet Widnes seemed to have been singled out for corrective action.

YACHTING

Hunter Group to sponsor races

By John Nicholls

This season's series for the Solent points championship will be co-ordinated by the Royal London Yacht Club of Cowes, and will be sponsored by the Hunting Group of companies under a new five year agreement. The series of 13 races, commences on April 28 and finishes on September 29.

As well as the usual classes based on International Offshore Rule (IOR) ratings, there will be two additional classes this year, using the Channel handicap system. This entails a simpler and cheaper means of measurement than the IOR and is intended to encourage owners who would otherwise not race.

RACING: COLIN BROWN MISSES SCHWEPPES RIDE ON BUCKLE AFTER WINCANTON FALL

Figures support Board's case

By Michael Seely

The Harry Bardsley and Billy Newnes case has highlighted the importance of the dispute between the Horserace Betting Levy Board and the bookmakers which is now before the Home Secretary for adjudication. The board are seeking an increase in levy rates, not only to keep prize money stable but to ensure that there is no further cutback in the integrity services and other crucial areas.

In the 22nd levy scheme which is now in operation, a reduction of seven per cent was agreed between the Levy Board and the bookmakers because of forecasts of declining turnover and profitability. The Levy Board considered these forecasts to be too pessimistic and that there was evidence of an underlying upward trend in turnover and a possibility in increased profitability in 1983.

The half-yearly reports from Ladbrokes and William Hill supported the Levy Board's opinion. For the six months ending July 1983, Ladbrokes showed a 20 per cent increase in profits compared to the same period in 1982, with betting heading the trading recovery. Hill's profits rose from £2.8m to £8.7m for the corresponding periods.

Neither side will comment at the moment as the matter is *subjudice*. The Home Secretary's decision is expected before the end of next week. However, the Levy Boards's case has already been stated. They have already made significant expenditure reductions, including prize money, and loans for racecourse improvements have also been reduced.

It is also considered that there is an urgent need for the application of additional resources for the protection of the integrity of racing. Other areas which need financial assistance are veterinary science and education, capital improvements on racecourses, particularly to improve safety standards, and the British Racing School.

The bookmakers' argument is that Ladbrokes and Hills are not necessarily representative of the industry as a whole. They would also argue that these profits were made partly because of increased efficiency and partly because of the freak weather last spring which upset the form book.

Their main case, however, lies in the fact that the levy is based on turnover and not on profitability. There the increase would only be in the region of one per cent. The bookmakers therefore see no reason why the levy should be increased to the extent demanded.

However, no one can possibly deny that racing was badly hit by the recession. Bookmakers are now reaping the benefits of the economic recovery and it only seems equitable that they should share part of these benefits with the industry from which they derive their livelihood.

Top sire sold

Halo, leading sire in the United States in 1983 with 45 winners of 84 races worth $2,739,270 (£1.9m), has been sold to a group from Texas headed by Tom Tatham and Ben Morris for $36m.



Wincanton winners: Richard Linley and Fifty Dollars More

Hill of Slane to underline Burrough Hill Lad's rise

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Hill of Slane can underline Burrough Hill Lad's chance in the Cheltenham Gold Cup next month by winning the Harwell Handicap Chase at Newbury today. At Sandown last Saturday Burrough Hill gave Hill of Slane 17lbs and a 19 length hiding in the Gainsborough Chase.

Nevertheless, Hill of Slane will be hard to beat off today's mark, even allowing for the fact that the opposition includes such doughty individuals as Straight Jocelyn, who has run so well at Newbury before, Mid Day Gun, Musso and King Ba Ba.

With tomorrow's Schweppes Gold Trophy in mind it wil be interesting to see how Prideaux Boy runs in the Haig Whisky Novices' Hurdle (Qualifier) for it was this six-year-old who gave supporters of Admiral's Cup, a live Schweppes hope, the fright of their lives at Ascot in December.

John Francome remains adamant that Admiral's Cup was not at his best that day but Prideaux Boy still surpassed himself by finishing in front of Permabos, Robin Wonder, Alastor O Mavros, Great Light and Sula Bula. He must stand an excellent chance of winning today against smaller fry.

With Son of a Gunner, Statesmanship, Childown, Comedy Fair, Easter Lee and Oregon Trail all standing their ground, the Stroud Green Hurdle should shed some much-needed light upon the Triumph Hurdle which looks even more open than usual this season. The pity is that Pacifiste was withdrawn at the eleventh hour. In his absence I shall take a chance with Statesmanship whose running in the Triumph Hurdle Trial at Cheltenham in December was a shadow of his fine performance at Ascot a month before. I remain unconvinced that Childown is good enough to win the four-year-old championships at Cheltenham even though he has won at Kempton and Sandown. Son of a Gunner faces much stiffer opposition than he encountered at either Taunton or Chepstow.

Michael Dickinson has interesting runners at Uttoxeter and Ayr. Robert Earnshaw will be at Uttoxeter to partner that good mare Sea Spice in the Field Novices' Chase, her first race over fences. Dickinson's novices have a habit of winning at the first attempt and Sea Spice receives a stone from West Tip and Hy-ko. Much as I admire West Tip, an out-and-out stayer, that considerable concession could prove beyond him.

Graham Bradley goes to Ayr primarily to ride Brunton Park in the Marchburn Novices' Chase. This is the horse who had the misfortune to come up against Forgive N' Forget on important occasions at Cheltenham last March and Wetherby on Boxing Day. Disappointing though it was to see Forgive N' Forget fail to fulfil that early promise at Ascot on Wednesday, Brunton Park should still manage to brush his opponents aside this afternoon.

Fine Sun, a good horse on the Flat, makes his long-awaited debut under National Hunt rules in the second division of the Lagg Novices' Hurdle. Unless something goes drastically wrong it is impossible to envisage him being beaten.

Browne's bad break on day of drama

By John Karter

Dull it certainly was not at sunlit Huntingdon yesterday. The sleepy little Cambridgeshire course can rarely have witnessed such a series of dramas, beginning with an extraordinary turn of events which left Dermot Browne, the champion amateur jockey, with a broken collar bone in the day's feature race, the Sidney Banks Memorial Hurdle.

Browne's Gazette, winner of his three previous races by street lengths, started 2-1 on and when Browne sent the six-year-old cruising into the lead from Homeola after the second last, it seemed merely a question of how great the winning margin would be.

Browne resembled a spectator at Wimbledon as he looked left and right continually for non-existent dangers and even though The Pawn had made up an enormous amount of ground to be a close third at the last, Browne had not yet asked for a serious effort from his mount as they took the final hurdle two lengths ahead.

Perhaps Browne's Gazette was going too easily but, whatever the reason, although he jumped the flight perfectly, he crumpled on landing and gave Browne a crashing fall. If Hywel Davies, who was riding The Pawn, thought it was his lucky day, he could hardly have believe his eyes when Homeola capsized almost simultaneously. So Davies, who had himself been the victim of a cruel piece of misfortune when brought down by a loose horse when well ahead on Ayad at Ludlow the previous day, was presented with a gift-wrapped victory to add to his prodigious 1984 tally.

Davies said afterwards that The Pawn, who apparently lost several lengths in some scrimmaging on the home turn, would have won anyway. Mick Ryan, The Pawn's trainer, thought so too and is looking forward to running the horse in the Philip Cornes Final at Newbury next month.

Browne, however, confirmed what 99 per cent of onlookers must have felt when he said that he had only been cantering on Browne's Gazette. And the poor fellow's agony must have been made considerably worse by the fact that his father Liam, the Irish trainer, and his mother were on holiday over here and had come to watch him yesterday. Not only that, but another pained spectator was a certain Michael Dickinson, the horse's trainer, paying one of his rare visits to a racecourse.

Dickinson confirmed that Browne's Gazette, who still looks a candidate for top honours, was none the worse for his fall and also said that Wayward Lad would quite possibly be the only one of his five entries to take on Brown Chamberlin at Newbury on Saturday.

Browne's Gazette was one of six favourites beaten during the afternoon and in the two subsequent races punters were parted from their money with almost equally sadistic strokes of fortune.

The odds-on Greenwood Lad was going like a certain winner when he fell three fences from home in the Tote Steeplechase. This left the second favourite, Kathies Lad well clear of Henry Kissinger, the outsider of the three runners, who appeared to have blundered away his chance at the second last fence. However, Paul Barton had other ideas and drove Henry Kissinger past Kathies Lad in the dying strides.

In the hunter chase, Roadhead, also odds-on, looked even more of a certainty as he took the last several lengths clear of Gill O'Whiskey. However, Margaret Wilson found her horse suddenly treading water on the flat and Philip Hewitt poked Gill O'Whiskey's nose in front right on the post.

Finally, as if to rub salt in the backers' wounds, John O'Neill rode Mend It to victory at 16-1 in the Long Stanton Hurdle. Those who were muttering darkly about the fact that O'Neill's name had not appeared next to the horse in *The Sporting Life* got it all wrong, however. O'Neill had been bookd by Neville Bycroft, the trainer, the previous afternoon and the fact had been recorded in most of the other daily newspapers.

Owner keen to try for Gold Cup

Fifty Dollars More, will join Brown Chamberlin and Observe in Fred Winter's three-horse challenge for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. After yesterday's perfect preparatory race in the Wincanton Challenge Cup. Long odds-on to beat five inferior rivals, he passed Mood Music at the second last to win by seven lengths.

Fifty Dollars More carries the colours of jumping's leading owner, Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin, who also has Gaye Brief, hot favourite for the Champion Hurdle. Winter said: "I asked the Shaikh the other day if he really wanted to go for the Gold Cup and he said 'yes'. Fifty Dollars More is a good horse at 2½ miles. We don't really know that he gets 3¼ miles but if the ground is good I think there is a reasonable chance he'll get it. If it's soft, I think he'll get stuck in it."

Winter confirmed that Brown Chamberlin, Francome's likely Cheltenham ride, will take on Wayward Lad at Newbury tomorrow. However, Observe misses Windsor next week and will probably not run again before Cheltenham. "Observe has an infection and has come out in a few spots. It's not serious but the vet has put him on antibiotics for three days and after that I can't run him for a fortnight."

Village Mark, pulled-up when favourite at Stratford last Saturday, finished in great style to win the Dick Woodhouse Hunters Chase by four lengths from Crawford Cross and Jimmy's Cottage. Only six of the 20 starters completed the course.

Dalbury put up a good performance under top weight in the Gillingham Handicap Hurdle, taking command between the last two flights for a convincing four-length victory over Park Rainbow. It was not Francome's day as he finished second on all three of his rides. Colin Brown was disputing the lead on Man In The Middle when he came down at the second last. Brown was taken to hospital with concussion and automatically stands down for seven days, so missing the ride on Buckle in tomorrow's Schwepps Gold Trophy.

Young trainer soon to join Epsom's historic ranks

Rapid climb to success for high-flying Jenkins

Back in August, when blue skies and scorched grass welcomed West Country holidaymakers to the launch of a new National Hunt season, there was a scarcity of runners with stables reluctant to risk their charges on brick-hard going. Gradually, the top trainbers dipped their big toes in to test the water's temperature only to find John Jenkins, the Sussex trainer, already fully submerged, swimming with the tide.

He soon established an early lead in the trainers' race and by Christmas had saddled 35 winners. It needed four Boxing Day winners by Michael Dickinson, the champion trainer, to overtake him. It was a remarkable achievement for a small stable and one that did not pass unnoticed. Peter Jones, in *Trainers Record*, commented: "No trainer has made such rapid progress in recent seasons as John Jenkins".

Now in his fifth season training, Jenkins, aged 36, is shortly moving from his Lower Beeding stables, just outside Horsham, to take over the Woodcote Stud at Epsom, formerly owned by Sir Freddie Laker.

Marvellous place

"The move should be completed by the beginning of March", Jenkins said. "I can't wait to move in. It will be a marvellous place to train. The facilities are super. There are two yards, set in 75 acres and I plan to have an all-weather gallop laid down."

Jenkins, with curly hair and boyish looks, is a young man who can match his ambition with ability. A flurry of recent winners leaves him needing only two to equal his best score of 42, achieved last season.

He credits a great deal of his success to John Francome who agreed to ride for him this season as a second retainer after Fred Winter. "There is no doubt that John has won me some races other jockeys would not have done", the trainer admitted.

Jenkins has a Welsh background and spent his early years at Neath. He was 12 when his father "Ren" (short for Renfield) moved to Arundel as head lad to Gordon Smyth, and later, John Dunlop. Apprenticed to Smyth, it was soon obvious that young Jenkins was too heavy for the Flat and he switched to National Hunt racing. In 11 seasons as a jockey he rode 77 winners.

One of his big disappointments came at Ascot in 1969 when he timed his run to perfection to win the Valley Gardens Opportunity Hurdle on an old favourite, Pinehurst Park. Unfortunately, the starter's timing was less perfect. He had despatched the runners three minutes early, so the race, and all bets, were declared void.

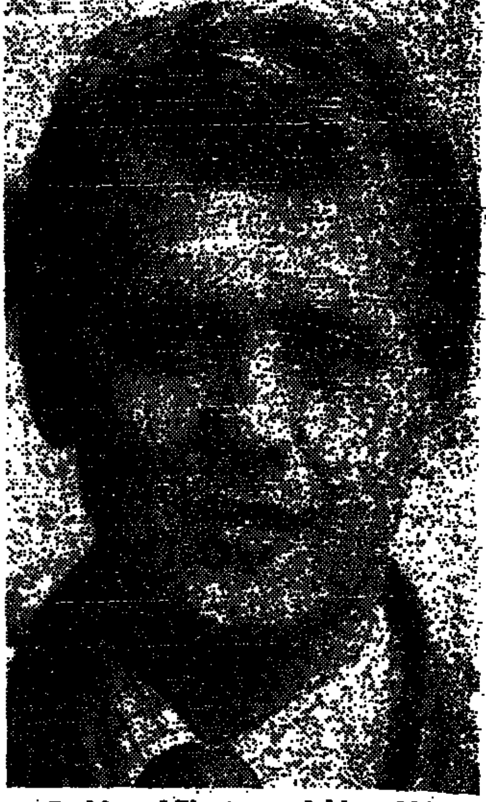
Two of the best horses Jenkins rode were Arboretum and Given, who was passed on to him when he began training at the outset of the 1979-80 season. This versatile campaigner gave him a flying start with four quick victories.

Right opportunity

Looking back on his riding days, based in the south-east, Jenkins said: "Too often when I was riding, particularly for small stables, I would put a horse in the race with a winning chance and he would blow up because he wasn't properly fit. You tell the connexions to run him again quickly, but they hesitate, believing they are being hard on the horse, so the chance is lost.

"A horse will stand a hard race, and come back for more, if he is fit and well. Too many horses go wrong because they are asked to do too much before they reach peak condition."

Now Jenkins is bringing into play all the experience he gained as a rider and his horses seldom fail on the score of fitness. He is also prepared, unlike some complacent trainers, to travel extensively to find the right opportunity for a moderate animal. "I'm quite happy sending a selling plater all the way to Ludlow if I think he has a chance."



Jenkins: ability to match his ambition

Jenkins is reticent about the stable's gambling exploits, but he has gone on record as saying: "It is better to have the reputation of running a betting stable than not having a reputation at all."

One reward for his success is that he is now being offered a better class of horse to train. Ideally he would like to have 35 quality horses at Epsom and with that aim will be busy at the sales later this year.

Disappointing run

It was fellow Epsom trainer John Sutcliffe who recommended Paris North as a potential hurdler and at 23,000 guineas he is his most expensive purchase to date. The four-year-old grey looked worth every penny after sparkling victories at Newbury and Lingfield, but mystified his trainer when pulled up in the Steel Plate Trial at Cheltenham early in January.

"We still do not know what was wrong with him that day. He's fine now, so I am starting from scratch again. He's having a nice rest, and then I'll find a suitable race for him before deciding about the Triumph."

Jenkins is hopeful that Great Light despite his disappointing Kempton run, will give a good show in the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury and passed on the tip: "Watch out for him later in novice chases. He will make them all go."

The trainer also has a high regard for Rhythmic Pastimes, who like Great Light, was trained on the Flat by Robert Williams at Newmarket. With Kyoto and Paris North, he helped Jenkins to his first treble, when scoring at the first time of asking at Leicester in November. Jenkins said: "He is still maturing and will make a decent staying hurdler next season."

John Jenkins has one ambition in National Hunt racing – to train as many winners as possible – and if his past record is anything to go by Epsom has acquired a valuable recruit to their historic ranks.

Dick Hinder

Newbury

Going: chase, good; hurdles, good to soft

Tote: double 2.30, 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0, 4.0

1.30 ALDERMASTON CHASE (novices: £2,087: 2m 160yd) (15 runners)

2.0 THATCHAM CHASE (£2,763: 2m 4f) (8)

2.30 STROUD GREEN HURDLE (Grade II: 4-y-o: £4,833: 2m 100yd) (8)

3.0 HARWELL CHASE (handicap: £3,023: 3m) (16)

430	0124p0	400 NOTES (D) (Dr R Brimblecombe) N Henderson 9-10-0	Mr J White
431	00p1f2	FOXBURY (D) (S Richards) Mrs C Richards 10-10-0	J J O'Neill
434	102-033	GEMELEK (P Bingley) J Old 8-10-0	C Brown
435	p-00p00	POLAR EXPRESS (CD) (T King) W King 9-10-0	D Smith

4 Hill Of Slane, 5 Musso, 6 Straight Jocelyn, Tacroy, 8 King Ba Ba, 10 Mid Day Gun, Late Night Extra, 12 Special Cargo, 14 Broomy Bank, 16 Secretary General, 20 others.

3.30 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (novices: £1,767: 2m 100yd) (27)



4.0 CRICKLADE HURDLE (handicap: £2,537: 2m 4f 120yd) (18)

Newbury selections

By Michael Phillips

1.30 Bright Oassis. 2.0 Golden Trix. 2.30 Statesmanship. 3.0 *Hill Of Slane*. 3.30 Prideaux Boy. 4.0 Master Carl.

Ayr

Going: soft

1.45 OLD TOLL HURDLE (conditional jockeys handicap: £864: 2m 6f) (16 runners)

2.15 HAMILTON-CAMPBELL CHASE (handicap: £1,695: 2m) (6)

2.45 LAGG HURDLE (Div I: novices: £784: 2m) (17)

3.15 DOONHOLM CHASE (novice handicap: £1,395: 2m 4f) (11)

3.45 MARCHBURN CHASE (novices: £1,273: 3m 110yd) (9)

4.15 LAGG HURDLE (Div II: novices: £796: 2m) (11)

Ayr selections

By Michael Phillips

1.45 Chetel. 2.15 Hope Of Oak. 2.45 Black Falcon. 3.15 Villierstown. 3.45 Brunton Park. 4.15 Fine Sun.

Uttoxeter

Going: soft

1.45 SANDON HURDLE (Div I: novices: £718: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

2.15 MILWICH HURDLE (Selling: handicap: £795: 2m 1f) (14)

2.45 COLWICH CHASE (Handicap: £1,611: 2m 4f) (8)

3.15 FIELD CHASE (Novices: £2,624: 3m 2f) (16)

8	613p	MULBERRY WALK (C) (B) P Connors 8-11-3	

3.45 FULFORD CHASE (Novice: handicap: £1,… 2m 1f) (10)

4.15 SANDON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £727: 2m 1f) (17)

Uttoxeter selections

By Michael Phillips

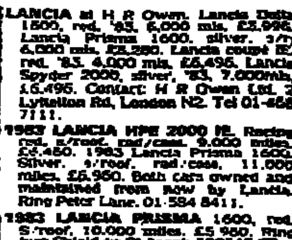
1.45 Finale Sept. 2.15 Pettistree. 2.45 Knock Hill. 3.15 Sea Spice. 3.45 Been Mugged. 4.15 Night Clown.

Huntingdon results

Going: Good

Wincanton

Going: Good



Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Arna aims to revive Alpha's flagging spirits

Alfa Romeo (GB) is in desperate need of something or someone to revive flagging spirits in the company and its dealer network. Two senior Italian executives have taken over as chairman and commercial director with orders to halt losses which totalled more than £10m in the past two years. But more than anything else the company's image needs to be boosted by new and exciting models in the famous Alfa tradition.

The gradual replacement last year of the much-troubled but much-loved Alfasud sports hatchback by the bigger and more expensive Alfa 33 has not gone according to plan. As a result dealers are heavily overstocked. They are crying out for a cheaper car to bring back first-time Alfa buyers.

And they are going to get it in the shape of the Nissan-Alfa which is assembled in Italy from Nissan Cherry body parts and fitted with Alfa engines and gearboxes. It is on sale in Britain as the Nissan Europe but with Alfa badges it will be called the Arna. The cheapest Nissan Europe sells for only £4,185 compared with £5,690 for the cheapest Alfa 33.

The betting is that when the Alfa Arna arrives in Britain in the summer it will be more fully equipped and cost perhaps another £500. But it will still be about £600 below the cheapest Alfasud and that will be manna from heaven for the company's 135 dealers.

Arna takes care of the bottom end of the market but does nothing to lift Alfa's image to its once-proud position as a builder of fast, beautifully-engineered sporting cars. Much will depend on the new Alfetta two-litre due next year.

In the meantime the present Alfetta range has been extended with a Gold Cloverleaf version with a restyled body and interior and the efficient two-litre twin cam engine fitted for the first time with Motronic fuel injection.

However the improvement goes much further with the Motronic computer controlling fuel and ignition, a combination which Alfa claims is an advance for a car in this price bracket. But the most innovative development is the use of variable inlet valve timing. High-speed engines need valve overlap to obtain good gas flow but having both inlet and exhaust valves open at the same time is not good for engine starting and low speed running. In other words it is a compromise.

Alfa varies the overlap period by rotating the camshaft relative to its drive sprocket with a hydraulic piston controlled by, yet again, the Motronic computer. The result is said to be a 28 per cent improvement in fuel consumption over the urban cycle and substantially-improved low-speed flexibility.

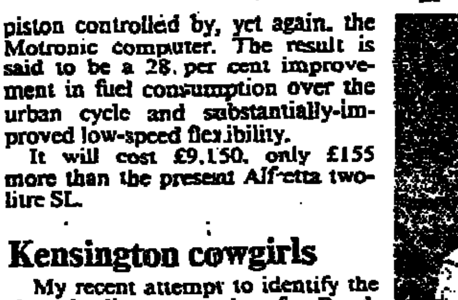
It will cost £9,150, only £155 more than the present Alfetta two-litre SL.

Kensington cowgirls

My recent attempt to identify the three leading contenders for Roadhog of the Year 1984 award seems to have touched a few of them on the raw judging by the mainly anonymous abuse arriving in my post. Most of them had their own interpretation of what constitutes good driving but missed the point completely. I suggest the key test question we should all ask ourselves is: "Am I the type of driver who gets pleasure out of inconveniencing other road users?"

Because it appears to have identified a new species, I shall quote from just one letter:

"As one who commutes daily to the West End from the South-west I have noticed a phenomenon which manifests itself somewhere in the Fulham Road and extends to the heart of Mayfair. I refer to what I call the 'Kensington Cow Girls' (possibly a sub-species of the Sloane Rangers) being the youngish lady drivers usually in a Golf, Renault 5, or something similar who drive fast with complete disregard of other



roadusers. They probably regard themselves as fast and expert drivers whereas in truth they survive only by virtue of the skill and forbearance of others."

The writer gives his name and address but asks to wear the cloak of anonimity to "avoid possible mass corralling by the Cowgirls".



Mazda 323 1.3 saloon: A delightful companion.

Mazda's rare gem

There are some cars you take an instant liking to and the longer you drive them the more satisfying the relationship. When such a gem is *also one of the cheapest in its class* then it is a rare beast indeed. The Mazda 323 1.3 saloon is such a car.

It has been described as a Japanese copy of the Escort and there are grounds for believing that Ford who own 25 per cent of Mazda's parent company, Toyo *Kogo, made its Escort plans* available to the 323 design team. You will in fact find the 323 on sale in the United States as the Ford Lazer. And like the Escort it suffered from a poor ride when it first appeared in Britain in 1981.

But last year's facelift, to smooth *out some of the starker lines,* also included changes to the rear suspension. It is now much firmer and has lost the pronounced up and down movement at the rear that marred its progress over marginally rough surfaces.

In its saloon form it is much better looking than the rather chunky hatchback version. The addition of a traditional boot gives it a long lean look which complements the flush fitting headlamps and big wraparound polyurethane bumpers of the mark II.

The space available for luggage is much bigger than is suggested by the outward shape of the boot. It does in fact offer as much space again by stretching a considerable distance under the rear parcel-shelf. It is also conveniently box-shaped and devoid of space-wasting obstructions. The *rear seats fold forward to* accommodate long awkward objects.

Some Japanese cars still suffer from the cheap plastic look and smell which was such a feature of popular priced European cars a few years ago. But not the latest 323. All my passengers and a number of carpark acquaintances remarked on its plush velour upholstery and trim which even *extends to interior door* panels.

However, it is on the road that friendships blossom or founder and the extremely quiet 323 is a delightful companion for both fast motorway journeys or the give and take of urban commuting. The 1.3 *engine does not have the flexibility* of the bigger 1.5 power-unit, which is also available, and has to be driven with frequent use of the five-speed gearbox. But as the engine is delightfully free revving and the gear-change one of the lightest and most positive of cars available, changing gear is not a chore.

The 323 is more than £1,000 cheaper than Ford's Orion 1.3 GL, and £600 less than Austin Rover's Maestro 1.3 HLE which is a hatchback but is all the British company has to offer until Montego, the new medium saloon appears in April. And with all that going for it *this splendid family transport* averaged 34mpg including several cold starts and short trips in freezing conditions.

Vital Statistics

Model: Mazda 323 1300 four door saloon.
Price: £4,899.
Engine: 1,295cc
Performance: Max speed 95mph, 0-60mph 13.5 seconds.
Official consumption: Urban 33.6mpg, 56mph 52.3mpg, and 75mph 36.2mpg.
Length: 13.8ft.
Insurance: Group Four.

THE LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Psalm 103, 8.

BIRTHS

BATTYE. – On 24th January to Hilary (née Barnett) and Martin – a daughter (Julia Elizabeth).

EASTERN. – on January 26th in Salisbury to Heather (née Newton) and Jeffrey a son (David Matthew Charles) a brother for Rosie and Helen.

ENGLAND – On February 5 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Sara (née Prestidge) and William, a son, Nicholas William, a brother for Katherine.

FAWLS. – On 22nd January at St Thomas's Hospital to Lydia (née Coghlan) and Richard, a daughter, Teresa, a sister for Dominic and Oriel.

GEORGE. – On January 27th to Claire (née Paulson) and Patrick, at Cuckfield Hospital, a son, (Alexander Michael).

HACKING. – On January 20th at St Thomas's Hospital, to Tessa (née Hunt) and David, a son (Alexander Roland Harry)

JAMIESON. – On January 12 to Penny (née Dash) and David, a son, Alastair Murray, a brother for Fiona.

KAY. – On February 8th at Westminster to Janina (née Montwill) and Gerald – a daughter (Sophie Miranda).

KING. – On February 8th, to John and Jan, a daughter, Victoria, a sister for Charlotte.

KITLOE. – On Feb 8th at The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury to Mary (née Hawkesworth) and Stephen, a son.

MEYER. – On Friday 20th January to Fiona and Hugh, a son.

MILLER – on February 6th to Judy and Sidney a daughter, Clare Elizabeth.

MURRAY – On January 27, to Carol (née Gordon) and Stuart, a daughter (Anna Florence Margaret.)

POLLOCK. – On February 9 to Sally (née Westland) and Andrew, a daughter Emma.

PRICE – On January 24 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Helen (née Fisher) and Richard, a son, Edmund Richard George.

ROSINO – On February 8th, at R. D. & E. Hospital, Heavitree, Exeter, to Nicola (née Watkins) and Elvirino, a son

ROXBURGH – On 1st February, 1984, to William and Susannah (née Don) of Cantyhall, Ladybank, Fife, a son (William), a brother for Clare and Kay.

ROYCROFT. – On 28th January, 1984 at The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, to Diane (nee Lincoln) and Timothy, a Daughter (Henrietta Alice).

SETCHELL – On February 4th to Sarah (née French) and Marcus, a son, brother for Anna, Thomas, and Catherine.

TEASDALE. – On January 23rd to Helen (née O'Connor) and Hadrian, a daughter, Lucy.

VAN WAGNER. – On January 24 at the Wellington Hospital to Erica and William of Oslo, Norway – a daughter (Meredith Anne), a sister for Kristin, Tyler and Whitney.

BIRTHDAYS

COOK, Keith Burberry, congratu- [illegible]

GOLDEN WEDDING

[illegible]

DEATHS

[illegible]

DEATHS

MORRIS. – ANDREW C. On 8th February in Port Hope, Ontario. Former master at Trinity College School (Hard Andy).

MURRAY. – On Feb 9th at Palmiet River, Cape Province, Kathleen Murray aged 92 yrs. Daughter of Dr Charles F. K. Murray and Caroline (née Molteno) Murray.

PALMER. – On February 7th, 1984, peacefully, at Bussock Mayne, Newbury, Berkshire, Gerald Eustace Howell Palmer. Interment at St. Mary's Churchyard, Chieveley, Berkshire, on Friday, 10th February, at 3 p.m. following private Liturgy and funeral service in London. Inquiries to Ealing Estate Office, Hermitage, Newbury, Berkshire. Telephone (0635) 200268.

PUTNAM, SYDNEY LAWRENCE. – On February 7 after a short illness bravely borne. Much loved uncle of Keith and Clarke Walters. Funeral 2.00pm, February 17 at Pakefield Church. Inquiries to R. Rivett Ltd. 15 Carlton Road, Lowestoft.

TEAPE-FUGARD. – On February 8th, 1984 at Castlebar General Hospital in his 80th year after a short illness. The Reverend Theodore, beloved husband of Ulrike and father of Michael and Kathleen. Funeral service at St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala, County Mayo on Monday February 13th at 11am.

WATSON. – On Feb 5, James George Robert Bruce of Nelsondale, Nelson Rd, Winchester. Dearly loved brother of Rev Robert Watson. Funeral at South Newton Church, nr Salisbury. February 13, 2.30pm.

WHITE. – On February 7, 1964, peacefully in Worthing Hospital, Thirkill (Taj) White, aged 84 years, loved husband of Margaret and dear father of Nona. Funeral at St Mary's Church, East Preston, on Wednesday, February 15 at 3.45 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request. Donations if desired for "A.R.N.O." may be sent c/o F. A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton, Sussex. Tel Littlehampton 3939.

WILSON. On 8th Feb. Yolé beloved wife & mother of Frances, Barbara, Judy, Richard, Anne. Thanksgiving Hambledon Church 2 p.m. Tuesday 14th Feb. Donations if desired N.S.P.C.C. 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

WINGFIELD – On January 20 1984 peacefully at home, Edward William Rhys Wingfield, late 60th Rifles, aged 78. Much loved husband of Norah and father of Jacqueline, Jane and Philip. Funeral service took place on Wednesday January 25 followed by private burial at St Barrahane's, Castletownshend. At his own request there will be no memorial service.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ALLEN. A meeting in memory of the late professor Sir Roy Allen will be held at The London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2, on Thursday, 1 March 1984 at 5.30pm.

BOLSTER. – A thanksgiving service for John Vary Bolster will be held on Thursday 16th February at noon in St Martins-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

CHILDS – A Memorial Service for KENNETH WALTER CHILDS will be held at St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London, E.C.3, at 11.45 a.m. Wednesday 22nd February.

SERVICES

FRIENDSHIP LOVE or MARRIAGE, Dateline – all ages, areas. Dateline Dept (TIM), 23 Abingdon Road, London, W.8. 01-938 1011.

THE MARRIAGE BUREAU (Heather Jenner), 124 New Bond St, W1. 01-629 9634. Consult us for individual attention.

CVs Professionally compiled and presented £1 x age. Details: 01-361 1869 (office hours). Calibre CVs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country. Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc., 60 West Smithfield, London, EC1A 9DX.

CONNOR otherwise **CONNER, RONALD HENRY CONNOR** otherwise **RONALD HENRY CONNER** late of 80 Henderson Road, Forest Gate, London E7. Died their [illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRABBLERS: Entry forms for 14th National Scrabble Championship now available. Send sae to NSC, 73 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4JA

GERMANY SUMMER JOBS. Also France and Switzerland. Send large SAE to VW1, 9 Park End Street, Oxford.

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TEMPTING TIMES

TEMPS

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VALET, HOUSEMAN, cook, chauffeur, seek post in London. Matured British male with excellent refs and exp. Apply UK & Overseas Au Pair Agency Ltd, 87 Regent [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION. Charity – Benevolent Fund, Leathersellers' Company. Greater London. Scheme for the alteration of the objects of the Charity. Ref: 247987 – A1 – L2. The Charity Commissioners have made an order establishing a scheme for this and other purposes. Copies can be obtained by written request to the Charity Commission, 14 Ryder Street, London, SW1, quoting the reference above, and may also be seen at that address or within one month from today at The Clerk's Office, The Leathersellers' Company, 15 St. Helen's Place, London, EC3A 6DQ.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society 286 Munster Road, Fulham SW6. The street collection for Multiple Sclerosis held in the Metropolitan Police area on 8th October 1983 totalled £69,749.49. In accordance with the permit regulated as laid down by the Metropolitan Police an auditors certificate has been sent to the commissioner of Police.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of NEW LOOK (Fashions) Limited and in the matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 7th day of March, 1984, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Keith David Goodman, FCA of 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 25th day of January 1984.

K. D. GOODMAN
G. C. S. BAKER
Liquidators

No. 007566 of 1983
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION

Mr Justice Harman in the matter of UNILEVER PLC and in the matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice Chancery Division dated the 24th January 1984 confirming the Reduction of Capital of the above-named Company from £141,418,760 to £136,170,274 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 27th day of January 1984.

Dated the 27th day of January 1984.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY
35 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DB.
Solicitors for the Company.

SONOVISION LABORATORIES LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & Co., situated at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA on Monday the 20th day of February 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 2nd day of February 1984.

D. F. CANTLAY
Director

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

We require a bright, energetic Administrator with own car for our busy Residential Lettings Office. Good secretarial skills and ability to deal with people essential. This interesting and challenging position is only vacant due to Property Manager's leave of absence. Good salary and car allowance.

Contact Mrs Berend 722 7105.

MEDIA APPOINTMENTS

US BASED Business Newspaper for communications industry executives seeks experienced journalist to head up European operations. Multilingual skills helpful. Excellent salary, benefits. Contact: Box 2172 H, The Times, or after Saturday: Elliot Kass. 01 629 9400

SUPER SECRETARIES

SECRETARY SPORTING DEPT £6,500

This small friendly estate agents with lovely offices in W1 has the perfect job for someone aged 20-25 with previous secretarial experience, accurate typing, rusty shorthand and good presentation. You'll be dealing with owners of landed estates so poise, social confidence and a pleasant disposition are important.

Bernadette of Bond St.

PA+

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CHARITY £7,500 SW1. This small organisation which provides help for families with handicapped children needs an efficient secretary/administrator. Duties include preparing agendas, attending meetings, supervising volunteers, appeal letters and organising the office smoothly and sensitively. Good sh/tp skills (100/60) and sound office experience essential. Age 24-35. Ring 434 4512 Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY required for Chief Executive Officer, Zoological Society of London. Good shorthand and typing speeds essential. Interesting and varied duties. Salary in scale rising to £7,248 p.a. according to age and experience. Hours 9.30-5.30 Mon to Fri. Permanent pensionable post. Staff Cafeteria. Applications in writing to Establishment Officer, Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Permanent/temporary positions. AMSA Specialists Agency 01-734 0532.

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MEDICAL SECRETARY required 1 day a week. 486 0027 after 10am.

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22 Hans Place, London SW1

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News and information, available on every TV set.

6.30 Breakfast Time: with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. The Friday "specials" include pop news (beween 7.45 and 8.00), and Glynn Christian's food and cooking feature (8.30-9.00). The regular items include news at 6.30, then half-hourly until 8.30; sport (6.40 and 8.40). TV Choice (6.55), Morning papers (7.18 and 8.18) and Your Stars (8.33).

9.00 My Music: Steve Race tests the musical knowledge of Denis Norden and Ian Wallace, and Frank Muir and John Amis (r): 9.25 Ceefax pages.

0.20 Play Ideas. 10.30 Play School.

0.55 Olympic Grandstand. Live coverage from Sarajevo.

2.30 News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale; 12.57 Financial Report and sub-titled news.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Chat, and music, from the foyer-studio; 1.45 Bagpuss.

2.00 Olympic Grandstand: The Ice Dance Championship, from Sarajevo. Torvill and Dean begin their quest for Olympic gold. Highlights of the opening three compulsory dances can be seen later this evening (6.40), plus coverage of the short programme section of the Pairs Skating Championship (Susan Garland and Ian Jenkins compete for Britain). The day's action also includes the opening rounds of the two-man bobsleigh and ice hockey (see also 10.50 tonight).

3.55 Play School: It's Friday; 4.20 The Adventures of Tin Tin: cartoon, from France (r); 4.25 Tottie – The Story of a Doll's House. Final part of this animated version of the Rumer Godden story.

4.40 Wildtrack: A film about wild mink, shot by 17-year-old naturalist Jonathan Fieldhouse. Also the tough stoat; and the lead poisoning danger to swans. 5.05 Grange Hill: A fight is arranged, at a warehouse; 5.35 The Wombles.

5.40 Sixty Minutes. The line-up is: news (5.40), weather (5.54), regional magazines (5.55) and closing headlines (6.38).

6.40 Olympic Grandstand: Further live coverage of the Ice Dance Championship. Plus coverage of the Bobsleigh event.

7.30 The Superteams: The final of the Townsend Thoresen Superteams Championship. The defending champions, Rugby Union, versus the Athletes.

8.20 Sharon and Elsie: A Round Table meeting puts paid to Elsie's (Brigit Forsyth) plan to spend a romantic evening at home with her husband. Sharon (Janette Beverley) is frightened by two crash-helmeted figures.

8.50 Points of View: With Barry Took.

9.00 News: with John Humphrys.

9.25 Remington Steele: Laura and Remington find themselves in competition when they are hired to find a missing gem worth two million dollars.

10.15 The Further Adventures of Lucky Jim: with Enn Reitel as Kingsley Amis's unfortunate hero (r). 10.45 News.

10.50 Olympic Grandstand: The Pairs Figure Skating Championship – the Short Programme.

11.15 Film: Puzzle of a Downfall Child (1970). Fact and fantasy get hopelessly mixed as a fashion model (Fay Dunaway), recovering from a mental breakdown, looks back on her life so that a film can be made about her. With Barry Primus. Director: Jerry Schatsberg. Ends at 1.00am.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen, Anne Diamond. The Friday "specials" include consumer advice (6.40, 9.05), Jeremy Beadle (7.05, 8.05), Postbag (7.50), Fantasy Time (8.10), Holiday spot (8.20), Weekend TV (8.35) and Diana Dors (8.45). Regular items include news (6.30, then half-hourly until 9.00), sport (6.35, 7.35), Mad Lizzie (6.50, 9.15) and Guest of the Day (7.40).

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames News Headlines; 9.30 For Schools (until 12.00). 9.30 Brain power; 9.47 How We Used to Live; 10.09 Good Health (exercise, rest, sleep); 10.26 Spreading their Wings; 10.45 A Fair Wage; 11.05 The Night Swimmers (3); 11.22 Nahanni: a story; 11.39 Il Duce (Mussolini).

12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch: for the toddlers (r); 12.10 Rainbow (repeated at 4.00) 12.30 Survival: Riddle of the Lake. The origin of the unequalled variety of fish in Lake Malawi (r).

1.00 News at One; 1.20, Thames area news; 1.30 About Britain: Just Keep Practising, World pipe band championship, 1973, in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. 2.00 Just our Luck: Comedy series about a weather man and a genie: 2.30 Falcon Crest: Chase says he has evidence of Carlo Agretti's blackmailing of Richard (r); 3.30 Sons and Daughters: A turning point in David's and John's relationship.

4.00 Children's ITV: Rainbow (r); 4.20 Batfink: Cartoon; 4.25 Sooty: a case of loss of memory; 4.50 Freetime: Ballet, bottles, bikes and Valentines. 5.15 The Young Doctors.

5.45 News. 6.00 The Six o'clock Show: News stories of the lighter sort.

7.00 The Zodiac Game: Astrological fun, with Tom O'Connor as MC, and guest celebrities Graeme Garden, Kenny Lynch, Eve Pollard, and Barbara Windsor.

7.30 The A Team: Another adventure starring the former Vietnam fighters turned soldiers of fortune.

8.30 A Fine Romance: Mike (Michael Williams) decides to clarify his on-off relationship with Laura (Judi Dench) once and for all. (See Choice).

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet: The final episode of this comedy series about Geordie "brickies" working in West Germany. Tonight, a number of the lads have to make important decisions about their futures. Oz, for example (Jimmy Nail) is keen to stay on – but not by himself. And Dennis (Tim Healy) is torn between Dagmar and his wife who has now ended her relationship with her lover.

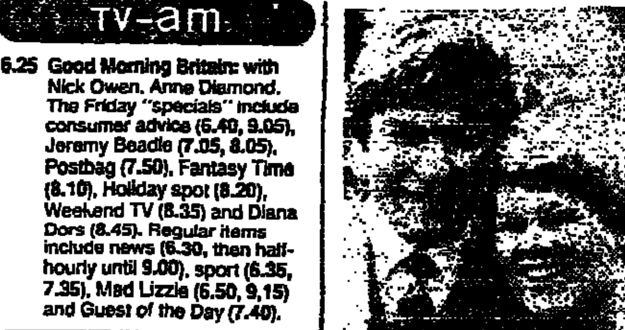
10.00 News at Ten. And London News Headlines.

10.30 The London Programme: Is London's last major industrial manufacturer, the Ford Motor Company, likely to pack its bags and leave Dagenham? Tonight's edition of the current affairs programme examines what has been happening to the car industry in Europe, and what the likely repercussions will be or the South-East of England.

11.00 Bosom Buddies: Amy's job in the advertising agency comes to an end.

11.30 Pyjamarama: with John Hegley and the Politicians, and comedy entertainers Mark Steel and Helen Lederer. Final programme in this "new faces" series. Some of the acts have been excruciatingly awful.

12.15 Bizarre: Comedy series, with John Byner. Followed by Canon Peter Challen's Night Thoughts.



Michael Williams and Judi Dench: ITV, 8.30pm

● A FINE ROMANCE, Bob Larbey's long-running comedy series about two lovers who cannot make up their minds whether to pool their futures or whether to settle for the on-off relationship they have enjoyed since the series began, ends next Friday night. I shall miss it. But, in view of what happens in the closing seconds of tonight's penultimate episode (ITV, 8.30pm), I very much doubt if there is any need for yet another sequel. In any case, there is a limit to the number of respectable variations that can be played on a given theme without the risk of repetition creeping in, and that was a danger that was beginning to manifest itself in A Fine Romance. Judi Dench and Michael Williams have been supplied with situations that have permitted them to show how two performances can totally

CHOICE

integrate with each other when someone comes up with exactly the right kind of dialogue. It was a lesson that the Hepburn-Tracy movies taught, years ago, but only a few writers have taken the trouble to learn it. Bob Larbey is one of them.

● Although next week sees the dissolution of the Dench-Williams partnership as forged in A Fine Romance, the two actors can still be enjoyed, albeit in independent capacities. Miss Dench begins reading Keith Waterhouse's Mrs Pooter's Diary in Woman's Hour next Monday afternoon, while on Monday night, in a Book at Bedtime, Mr Williams reads the first of 15 instalments of Alain-Fournier's book The Lost Domain.

● Radio highlights: Paul Brooke's readings from the diaries (180 volumes of them) of A C Benson (Radio 3, 7.50pm), are a total delight. Benson, who wrote the words of Land of Hope and Glory, was not only Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, but also master of the acid reproach. He thought the choirmaster at Magdalene looked like a "dissenting grocer", and watched the audience at a Henry Wood concert as they applauded and encored "in all the wrong places". There were, he reports, "a good many vituosos in the gallery – but no smart people, of course." The natural wonders of England, in the early years of the present century, found Benson in gentler and more lyrical mood. Here, again, Mr Brooke is equal to the occasion in his readings.

BBC 2

6.05 Open University (until 8.10).

9.08 Daytime on Two: education programmes. 9.08 Fertilization; 9.30 Science and Money; 9.52 The Boy from Space; 10.15 Mathematics One; 10.38 Pages from Ceefax; 11.00 History Trail (living in London); 11.22 Religious and Moral Education; 11.44 Going to work (hairdressing); 12.05 Making the Most of the Micro; 12.30 Micros in the Classroom; 12.55 Speak for Yourself.

1.20 Pages from Ceefax; 1.38 Around Scotland (hospital): 2.01 The Kids are OK; 2.30 Talking pictures (Weston film-making students in action).

2.50 World Bowls: Live coverage of the last quarter-final of the Embassy World Indoor Championship. Tonight: highlights, plus the first semi-final (see 11.20pm entry).

5.30 Weekend Outlook: Open University trailers.

5.35 News summary: with sub-titles.

5.40 Film: Murder at the Gallop (1963*) One of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple mysteries, in which the amateur sleuth (Margaret Rutherford) suspects murder when a wealthy cat-loving recluse is frightened to death – by a cat, it seems. Directed by George Pollock.

6.55 Zea: Award-winning, National Film Board of Canada short that was very dangerous to make.

7.05 ORS 84: Live music from Marillion and Marilyn, and a new band called The Farm plus star guests.

7.45 Nigeria: A Squandering of Riches. A World About Us special filmed in Nigeria only a month before last December's military coup which toppled the civilian government. Nigerian singer and TV journalist Onyeka Onwenu travels the country, capturing its mood in the critical weeks before the coup.

8.25 Gardeners' World: In the Starting from Scratch feature, Geoff Hamilton removes builders' rubble and erects some fencing.

9.00 M*A*S*H: Deep concern in the 4077th when Hawkeye is sent to the front, and a report comes through that a doctor has been killed in action.

9.25 Whicker! Alan Whicker concentrates tonight on plastic surgery.

10.05 Cricket: Third Test. England (humiliated in the Second Test) face New Zealand again.

10.35 Newsnight: bulletins and analysis.

11.20 World Bowls: First semi-final of the Embassy World Indoor Championship and highlights from the last of the quarter-finals.

11.55 Whistle Test: with Billy Bragg, Steve Nieve and the Boomtown Rats. Ends at 12.40am.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Munsters: Hermann (Fred Gwynne), having made a sensational hit during a baseball try-out, is given the chance to try the real thing. Much water has flowed under the bridge since Karloff created the Frankenstein Monster (on which Herman Munster was based) in 1931.

5.30 The Tube: Pop music show Tonight's edition features the talents of Siouxie and the Banshees; The Thompson Twins and Kool and the Gang. Jointly presented by Jools Holland and Leslie Ash.

7.00 Channel Four News: Followed by weather forecast.

7.30 Right to Reply: Channel Four viewers a say what they feel about the station's programmes. Tonight's discussion centres on the 12-part series Heart of the Dragon (screened on Monday nights).

8.00 A Week in Politics: A day in the life of an Alliance MP; and the implications of the trade union ban at GCHQ, Cheltenham.

8.40 What the Papers Say: Oliver Pritchett, of the Sunday Telegraph, examines the way that different papers have handled the same story.

9.00 Dream Stuffing: The launderette is temporarly closed. Jude (Rachael Weaver) and Mo (Amanda Symonds) take in Bill's and Richard's washing, and the beginnings of a profitable business begin to reveal themselves.

9.30 Whoops Apocalpyse: Sixth and final episode of this black comedy which explains the reasons for the world's being plunged into nuclear conflict, Tonight, the Quark bomb reaches its final resting place – a crematorium furnace in Israel. (r)

10.00 Cheers: Comedy series, set in a Boston bar. Coach (Nich Colosanto) volunteers his name when a friend of Sam's says he needs a manager for his little league team.

10.30 Well Being: How we can all improve our physical and mental health with and without the assistance of the medical profession. Tonight: is all this exercise business good for women? The bodybuilder Zoe Warwick is among those interviewed.

11.15 Film: And Then There Were None (1945*). Agatha Christie murder yarn, directed by famous French film maker Rene Clair, but made in Hollywood. Based on the stage play Ten Little Niggers (the title was changed for obvious reasons). It is the story of a sequence of murders on a lonely island when guests are invited to a house party. The cast includes Walter Huston, Barry Fitzgerald, Louis Hayward, June Duprez, C. Aubrey Smith and Roland Young. Re-made (badly) in 1974, with Oliver Reed in the cast. Ends at 1.05.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing; Weather.

6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast.

6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.45 Prayer. 6.55, 7.55 Weather, 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.50 Your Letter. 8.57 Weather; Travel.

9.00 News.

9.05 Desert Island Discs. The American actor Stubby Kaye (r).

9.45 Feedback.

10.00 News: Science Now.

10.45 Daily Service.

11.00 News; Travel; You the Jury. The Alimony Trap. The motion is: Maintenance payments to ex-wives should be abolished except where necessary for the support of children. The motion is proposed by Dr Dick Allan and opposed by Wendy Mantle. The chairman is Geoffrey Robertson (r).

11.48 Natural Selection. The alarm calls of animals.

12.00 News: You and Yours.

12.27 Funny peculiar. With Gyles Brandreth in the chair. Today's panel of investigators: Roy Kinnear, June Whitfield and Brian Johnston. The guests: Valerie Singleton, Christopher Biggins and David Hamilton (r). †

12.55 Weather; Programme News.

1.00 The World at One: News.

1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 News: Woman's Hour from Manchester. Includes a report on a home-from-home holiday fostering scheme for handicapped children; and the reminiscences of Ruby Peeke, apprentice hairdresser to the gentry 60 years ago.

3.00 News; The Fountain Overflows† by Rebecca West, dramatised for radio in three parts (2) (r).

4.00 News; Just After Four. Refreshment in Rochdale. With Jeff Nuttall.

4.10 Caribbean Links. In the last of six programmes, Caribbeans in Britain talk about their continuing links with their homeland. Mike Phillips, Senior Lecturer in Radio Journalism at the Polytechnic of Central London chairs a discussion with a group of Caribbeans. He is joined by, among others, Darcus Howe, editor of Race Today, and Colin Carter, Secretary General of the United Kingdom Caribbean Chamber of Commerce.

4.40 Story Time: Atlantic City Proof by Christopher Cook Gilmore (5). Read by the author.

5.00 PM. News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme News.

6.00 The Six O'Clock News; Financial Report.

6.30 Going Places. The world of transport and travel.

7.00 News.

7.05 The Archers.

7.20 Pick of the Week. Programme highlights with Margaret Howard.†

8.10 Profile. A personal portrait.

8.30 Any Questions? from New Milton, Hampshire. With Ken Livingstone, Lady Gardner, Graham Dowson, and Rowanne Pasco.

9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.

9.30 Angus McDermid in the BBC Sound Archives.

9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine. Presented by Michael Billington. Includes the Golden Nymph Awards at the Monte Carlo Festival, and the Royal Court production of Tom and Viv, by Michael Hastings.

10.15 A Book at Bedtime: "Fire Falcon" by Duff Hart-Davis (last of ten). Read by Paul Young.

10.30 The World Tonight, including Financial World Tonight.

11.15 Week Ending. A satirical review of the week's news.

11.45 Today in Parliament.

12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15-Close. Shipping Forecast.

ENGLAND VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30 Weather; Travel. 10.45-12.00 For Schools. 1.55-2.00 Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55pm (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4: 11.00 ¡Digame! 11.30 Get by in Italian. 12.30-1.10am Schools Night-Time Broadcasting: 12.30 Voix de France. 12.50 20: Les problèmes des jeunes.

Radio 3

6.25 Cricket: First day of the Third Test; 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.

7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Prokofiev's suite Love of Three Oranges; Dvorak's Polonaise for cello and piano (Sadlo/Holocek); Dubois's Concerto for saxophone and strings (Rousseau is soloist); Schubert's Grand Rondo in A, D 951 (Emil and Elena Gilels, piano duet).† 8.00 News.

8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Verdi's overture I vespri siciliani; Mozart's Ch'io mi scordi di te (Ameling/Baldwin); Ravel's Sonatine (Argerich, piano); and Tchaikovsky's overture 1812.† 9.00 News.

9.05 This Week's Composer: Bartok. Kornel Zempleni (piano) plays the Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm. Also the String Quartet No 5, and the Szekely Songs.†

10.00 Beethoven and Schumann: Wolfgang Manz (piano) plays Beethoven's Sonata in E flat, Op 81a (Les Adieux), and Schumann's Carnaval, Op 9.†

10.50 Ulster Orchestra: Grieg's Lyric Suite, and Svendsen's Symph No 1.†

11.45 English Songs: Gerald English (tenor), with John Constable (piano) perform Finzi's song-cycle O Fair to see; Rooper's Four poems of Laurence Lerner; and Seiber's song-cycle To Poetry.†

12.30 Midday Concert: BBC Phil Orch, with Jonathan Goodall (horn). Part one. Bax's symphonic poem Tintagel; and Mozart's Horn Conc No 2.† 1.00 News.

1.05 Six Continents: foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.

1.20 Midday Concert: part two. Strauss's symphonic fantasy Aus Italien.†

2.05 Haydn and Beethoven: Recital by Parkian/Fleming/Roberts Trio. Haydn's Piano Trio in G major, H XV 25; Beethoven's Piano Trio in B flat major, Op 97.†

3.05 Symphonies by Martinu and Schubert: Czech Phil play Martinu's Symph No 2; Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields play Schubert's Symph No 2.†

4.00 Choral Evensong: from Lincoln Cathedral.† 4.55 News.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another of David Hoult's selections.†

6.25 Music for Guitar: Vladimir Mikulka plays works by Franz Xaver Dusek (arr Mikulka), Kozeluh, Stepan Rak, Nikita Koshkin (first broadcast of his Clock Music).†

7.00 Elgar: Andrew Watkinson (violin) with Ian Brown (piano) play the Violin Sonata in E minor, Op 82.†

7.30 Pritchard conducts Stravinsky and Brahms: Part one. The BBC SO and Chorus, with Felicity Lott (soprano) and Benjamin Luxon (baritone). Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms.†

7.50 A Day in the Life of . . . A. C. Benson. The reader is Paul Brooke. Second of four programmes.

8.10 Pritchard conducts Stravinsky and Brahms: Part two. Brahm's Ein deutsches Requiem.†

9.35 Private Games: Professor Lewis Wolpert interviews Christopher Zeeman, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Warwick.

10.05 Baroque Flute Sonatas: performances by Jeremy Barlow (flute), Marilyn Sansom (cello) and Michael Steer (harpsichord).†

10.40 Niels Viggo Bentzon: Phil Jenkins plays the Sonata No 2, Op 42, 1946; and Harald Saeverud's Statter og Stev fra Siljustol, Book 2, Op 22.†

11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry†incl 4.02; 5.02 Cricket. 5.30 Ray Moore†incl 6.02 Cricket. 7.30 Terry Wogan†incl 8.31 Racing Bulletin. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Steve Jones†incl 1.05 Sport. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford†incl 2.02; 3.02 Sport. 3.30 Music All The Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton†incl 4.02; 5.05 Sport. 6.00 John Dunn†incl 6.02 Sport; 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 7.30 Male Voice Choir Competition. The second round.† 8.15 Friday Night is Music Night from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London.† 9.30 Old Stagers. The first of 10 programmes with Brian Haines 1: Gertrude Lawrence.†9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Best of Bentine. 10.30 Sounds of the North. (The Sounds of Costa Del Fylde). 11.00 Stuart Hall incl 11.02; 12.05 Cricket. 1.00 Jean Challis†incl 1.02; 2.02 Cricket. 3.00-4.00 Night Owls†incl 3.02 Cricket.

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30 am until 8.30 pm and then 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (mf/mw). 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Gary Davies. 4.30 Select-a-Disc. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 9.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance (stereo from 10.00). VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2. 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Rock Back the Clock. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Bach Family. 8.30 Women of The World. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Album Time. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah and Company. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four hours. 9.15 Music Now. 9.45 The Painter of Signs. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 The Barefoot Microchip 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Classical Record Review. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 The Seven Deadly Sins 3.50 Recording of the Week. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Let There Be Drums. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 Wales: 12.57-1.00pm News of Wales. 3.53-3.33 News of Wales. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Wales Today. 10.15-10.50 Week In Week Out. 11.15-11.30 Sportfolio. 11.30-11.31 News. 11.31-1.15am Film: Ten Days' Wonder (1971) (Orson Welles, Anthony Perkins). Scotland: 12.55-1.00pm News. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes). 9.25-10.00 Friday Night with Dougie Donnelly. 10.00-10.27 Agenda. 10.27-10.30 News. 10.30-11.50 Beechgrove Garden Spring Special. Northern Ireland: 12.57-1.00pm News. 3.53-3.55 News. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. 10.45-10.50 News. 11.15-12.00am Amateur Boxing. 12.00-12.50 Rory at Midnight. 12.50 News. England: 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes). 10.15 East Weekend. Midlands – Midlands Tonight. North – Northern Lights. North East – Coast to Coast. North West – The Great Eric Ackroyd Disaster. South – Southern Life: A Village on Camera. South West – Country Scene. West (Bristol) – The Dorsetmen.

HTV As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Lost in the Desert (Dirkie Hayes). 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Joanie Loves Chachi. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Problems. 10.30 Good Neighbour Show. 11.00 Film: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Jane Russell). 12.40 am Closdown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 11.06 am-11.20 About Wales. 6.00 pm-7.00 Wales at Six. 10.30-11.00 In a Chord.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Strange but True. 2.30 Falcon Crest. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Harlem Globetrotters. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Crossfire. 11.00 Film: Honeymoon (Jean-Louis Trintignant). 12.35am News. Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.00-3.30 Film: Happy is the Bride (Ian Carmichael). 5.15-5.45 Silver Spoons. 6.00 News. 6.02 Zodiac Game. 6.30 Northern Life. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.32 Film: Fiend Without a Face. 11.55 Portrait of a Legend. 12.25am Three's Company. Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: In Name Only. (Michael Callan). 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 10.34 Shelley. 11.00 Film: Screamer. 12.20am Postscript. Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Day Ahead. 11.39-12.00 Pieces of Eight. 12.30 pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.00 Film: A Cuckoo in the Nest (Tom Walls). 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.45-7.00 Advice. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.20 Magnum. 12.15 am News. Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: Carry on, Admiral* 5.15-5.45 Zodiac Game. 6.00 Calendar. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.30 Shelley. 11.00 Rugby League. 11.55 Last Outlaw. 12.50am Closedown.

SCOTTISH: As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20 News. 2.00-4.00 Film: Tunes of Glory. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00-7.00 Hear Here. 10.35 Ways and Means. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 Sweeney. 12.05am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Farming Brief. 12.30 pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20 News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.35 About Britain. 2.05 Old Wives' Remedies. 2.10 Film: Up the Creek (David Tomlinson). 3.45 Sportsbreak. 3.50-4.00 A-Z. 5.15-5.45 That's My Boy. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Friday Sportshow. 10.30 Shelley. 11.00 Showcase. 11.15 Film: Every Home Should Have One (Penelope Keith). 1.00 am Company, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: Arsenal Stadium Mystery* (Leslie Banks). 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 1.30 Cross Question. 11.05 Film: Pumpkin Eater (Anne Bancroft). 1.05am Birgitta and Swante, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Laurel and Hardy Double Bill: Chump at Oxford, and Dirty Work. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Zodiac Game. 6.00 News. 6.05 Weekend. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.30 House Calls. 11.00 Rugby League. 11.55 Film: Zero Population Growth (Oliver Reed). 1.45am Closedown.

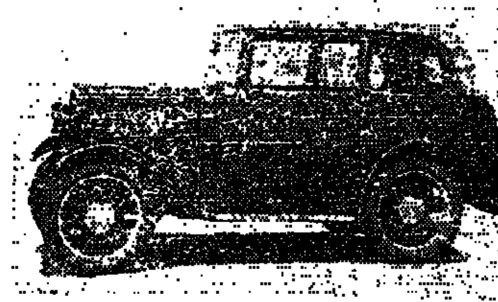
S4C Starts 2.00 pm Ffenestri. 2.20 Stori Sbri. 2.35 Hyn O Fyd. 2.55 Jack's Game. 3.20 The Making of Britain. 3.50 Good Food Show. 4.15 Television Scrabble. 4.45 Corachod. 5.00 Be Nesa? 5.30 The Tube. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.35 Edrych Trwy Y Camerau. 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.30 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. 9.15 Cheers. 9.45 Soap. 10.15 Boy in the Bush. 11.15 Whoops Apocalypse. 11.45 Stand Your Ground. 12.15 am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 2.00 Film: Murder by Proxy. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Newhart. 10.30 Sportstalk. 11.00 Rugby League. 11.55 Two of Us. 12.25 News. Closedown.

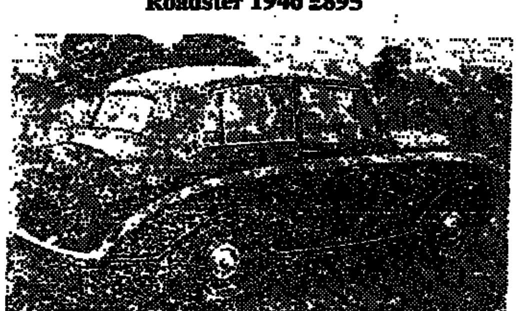
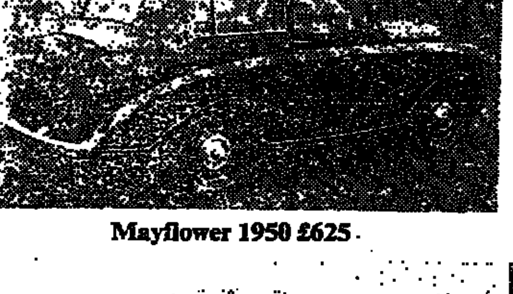
CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20 News. 1.30-3.30 Film: Valentine Magic on Love Island (Adrienne Barbeau). 5.15-5.45 Zodiac Game. 6.00 News. 7.00 A-team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.35 Sweeney. 11.35 Film: Story of a Love Story (Impossible Object) (Alan Bates). 1.40am Closedown.

Entertainments

End of the road for cars sporting a Triumph badge


Super Seven 1927 £149 10s


Roadster 1946 £895



Mayflower 1950 £625

Plans by British Leyland to drop the Triumph label, probably this summer, will mark the end of a long line of bicycles, motor cycles and cars bearing the distinctive red and blue badge (David Cross writes).

The last model to carry the Triumph name, the successful Acclaim, is expected to be replaced by a revamped version with a Rover badge produced at Longbridge. Like the Honda-based Acclaim the new 1.3 and 1.6 litre models will be based on a Japanese design unveiled at the Tokyo motor show last autumn.

The Triumph company, best-known for motor cycles and sports cars, started life exactly 100 years ago when a German, Herr Siegfried Dettmann, arrived in London to work for the Kelly Road directory firm. But, taking advantage of the bicycle boom sweeping Europe, he exported bicycles manufactured in Birmingham under his own name.

When it became clear that Dettmann was not a catchy name in Britain or on the continent he changed it to Triumph to make it more easily understood by non-German speakers.

In 1887, he was joined by Herr Mauritz Schulte, a German engineer, and in 1888 they moved to Coventry, then the centre of the cycle industry, to set up their own manufacturing plant.

The two Germans first fitted an engine into a Triumph bicycle in 1902 and quickly built up an international reputation for motor cycle engineering, which continued until the demise of the Triumph motor cycle cooperative at Meriden last year.

The original company moved from the production of two to four-wheeled vehicles in 1923 with the building of a solid 'modern' family sedan of American inspiration.

In the late 1920s it tried to enter the mass-produced economy car market with a Triumph Super Seven model, but it lacked the financial resources of the bigger manufacturers like Morris, Austin, Standard and Singer.

Despite financial problems which culminated in its liquidation in 1939, the company introduced several British engineering innovations pioneering hydraulic brakes in 1925 and the factory-fitted windscreen washers in 1935.

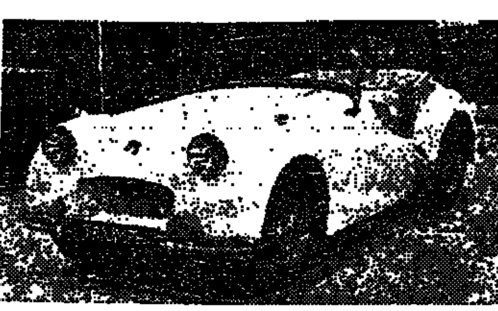
After the Second World War the motor company, which had separated from the motor cycle division in 1936, was taken over by the Standard company which made Ferguson tractors under licence. Standard-Triumph produced medium and small family saloons, the best-known of which was the Mayflower.

But it was not until the early 1950s, when it entered the sports car market with a long line of successful sports cars beginning with the TR2 that its reputation became truly international.

Financial problems dogged the company, in spite of the successful introduction of the Triumph Herald in 1959. It was taken over by Leyland Motors in 1961, the first car company to be acquired by the truck and bus firm. The new management introduced a range of Triumph models, including the Spitfire sports car in 1962, the 2000 saloon in 1963 and the Dolomite in 1972. But these have been replaced with models under the better-known and more successful badges of Austin and Rover.

The captions show year of introduction and basic price of car, including tax.


Gloria 2-litre 1935 £340



Roadster 1950


TR2 1953 £871

Herald 1959 £619

Spitfire 1962 £662

TR6 1969 £1,333 19s 2d

Acclaim 1981 £4,688

Robert Fisk in Beirut

Law and order, Ruritania style

Law and order came to West Beirut yesterday, courtesy of Mr Nabih Berri and his Shia Muslim militia. The police were ordered back on to the streets, and the gunmen were instructed to return to the front line.

When one recalcitrant militiaman chose to walk down Corniche Mazraa with his automatic rifle, he was promptly shot, "executed in the field", as one local newspaper put it in courtly fashion, for carrying a weapon in a public place.

If President Gemayel had used such methods to keep the law in West Beirut one could imagine the reaction. But things are a little different these days.

Even the Squad 16 Lebanese Internal Security Force was told by the militias to patrol the west of the city. And, sure enough, there they were yesterday, back in their familiar red berets and khaki uniforms with the Arabic numerals in gold on the cap badges, driving through the streets in their old grey Land-Rovers.

The shops reopened along Hamra Street, even the grotesquely expensive ladies' dress shops with last year's plunging necklines, which is not quite what the Islamic revolution is supposed to be about. Bar-owners were quietly told that Wednesday's drink-smashing session by Shia gunmen was an unfortunate excess that would not be repeated.

Fruit-sellers lounged on the kerbside and, during the sunny, dog-day afternoon, quite incredibly, a Middle East Airlines jet floated low over the roofs of the city and touched down at Beirut airport, courtesy once more of Mr Berri and his militias, right beside the astonished US Marine contingent of the now-defunct multinational force.

But, of course, things were not quite as they seemed in Mr Berri's little Ruritania. The policemen, for instance, were real policemem but they were all unshaven. The reason was simple: when they are not policemen they are members of the Shia Amal militia, and no self-respecting gunman in Beirut would ever have a clean shave in the morning. A few have even sewn a small and discreet green and red Amal badge on to their gendarmerie uniforms sleeves.

Nor were the shopkeepers quite as confident as they looked. The petrol station owner down the Corniche was fingering ammunition into a brand-new submachine gun when I called for petrol during the afternoon.

"If those Phalangists try to come here there's going to be a massacre", he said. "No way are we going to let Gemayel get West Beirut back. The only soldiers we want are the ones who have come over to us."

He was a peaceful enough man, waving cheerfully to an Army deserter in a Marine uniform with an Islamic green scarf round his forehead, and inspecting the shrapnel gash in the bonnet of *The Times's* faithful automobile with tut-tutting sympathy.

But then he added, in his best American: "Man, if the Phalange try to come in here, you'd better keep your head in the sand."

The Americans proved to be those most curiously affected by the sudden shift in their status here. Yesterday morning, for instance, the Marine guards outside the British Embassy, where American diplomats are based, cheerfully permitted Druze militiamen holding Soviet-made AK47 rifles to wander inside the compound security zone. They were talking together like old friends.

But when American journalists brandishing American passports turned up to visit their own Embassy personnel, the Marines sourly ordered them to leave.

Asked why American reporters and photographers could not visit their Embassy compound when gunmen and Army mutineers were clanking into it, Mr John Stewart, the Embassy's bespectacled press officer, uttered what might turn out to be one of the more memorable statements of President Reagan's débâcle in Lebanon: "It's not because your camera is dangerous", he said. "It's because some people might consider the results – the reactions to the photographs – might be dangerous or damaging to foreign policy, or something like that."

Marines talk to gunmen, it seems, but not on camera.

Others 'may bid for Scots yard'

Continued from page 1

Scott Lithgow to get into the long-term business of manufacturing oil exploration and production systems, and we need the space and the work force", Trafalgar House added.

A key part of Trafalgar's recent acquisitions in the oil and North Sea industry – with the chairman, Mr Nigel Broackes's knack of buying undervalued assets – was the purchase from British Steel in 1982 of the Redpath Dorman Long steel fabricator, which it intergrated with the Cleveland engineering activity. The two operations employ about 7,000 on Teesside and build large steel rig components.

Trafalgr said: "We have invested in RDL and it now employs more people than when we took over. We did not sell any of the business or asset strip it in any way. We are interested in a permanent Scott Lithgow and in keeping it British."

Cunard, the Trafalgar subsidiary, has also been having discussions recently with British Shipbuilders' Swan Hunter yard over delays in the building of the £40m replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor, the container ship sunk in the Falklands war. British Shipbuilders faces huge penalty payments if the ship is late, but Trafalgar said last night that that had played no part in the Scott Lithgow negotiations.

Howard Doris, the Anglo-French rig builder based on Loch Kishorn on the Scottish west coast, had seen itself as a front runner in the race to acquire Scott Lithgow and appeared to be surprised by Trafalgar's announcement on Tuesday.

The 2,000 workers who walked out of Scott Lithgow yesterday were joined later by white-collar staff in what is believed will be a 24-hour stoppage.

The workforce was angry that the deal was being "rushed through" without consultation and with the prospect of 2,750 out of 3,500 employees losing their jobs.

The next move will be decided at a mass meeting today where there will be calls for occupation of the yard if the Trafalgar purchase is allowed to stand.

Union leaders are demanding talks with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Budget priority for personal tax relief

Continued from page 1

Abolition of or a cut in the national insurance surcharge to help industry seemed less likely.

With Mr Lawson's broad strategy of steady growth combined with low inflation and effective control of Government borrowing there was no argument.

The so-called "wets" such as Mr Peter Walker, and Mr James Prior believe that things are going much more their way. Indeed so bland were the proceedings that a Cabinet source was said to have found the meeting boring.

Mr Lawson did not commit himself to any specific measures but will not have been unhappy with the outcome.

British civilians begin to leave Beirut chaos

Continued from page 1

Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal militia leader, ordered gunmen off the streets of West Beirut and, however temporarily, did bring a considerable measure of order to the Muslim sector of the city during the day.

His own contribution to yesterday's stagnant political crisis was a demand that the Lebanese National Covenant should be changed to give the President only a two year term of office, a system that would ensure the departure of Mr Gemayel in only seven month's time.

But Mr Berri is riding a tiger, desperately trying to control his own militias, and Mr Gemayel has said absolutely nothing since the civil war began, perhaps because he has nothing to say.

A chartered Middle East Airlines jet did manage to fly in to Beirut airport yesterday to collect a sick woman, and militia men around the terminal permitted the aircraft to land. American F-14 jets flew level with the aircraft sometimes 15ft from its wing tips, over the Mediterranean.

About 50 journalists were also on the aircraft. Asked who controlled the airport when he arrived, an American passenger replied: "I saw some people in uniforms but there were a lot of guys in leather jackets stamping passportts."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits ERA Technology Ltd, Leatherhead, Surrey, 11.

Princess Alexandra attends the "Kids 'n Cops" Charity Concert, in aid of the Townmead Youth Club, Fulham Old Town Hall, SW6, 7.20.

New exhibitions

Images: new paintings and drawings by David Napp, Philip Brown, Shaun Carey and Susan Palin: Royal Museum, Canterbury, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Feb 24).

New London exhibitions

The Magic Country: nineteenth and twentieth century children's illustrated books; Church Farm House Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW1: Mon to Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5.30, Tues 10 to 1, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until March 25).

Paintings by Brünhilde Grasser; Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3, Mon to Tues, Thurs to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 6, closed Weds (until March 1).

Exhibitions in progress

Gifts from Glasgow and Greenock: the best from the collections of University of Strathclyde, and the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Greenock; Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (until Feb 29).

Drawings by George Fullard; Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (until Feb 18).

Image, an exhibition about painting; Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne; mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until March 4).

Seventy-fifth annual Arts Club exhibition; The Manor House Castle Yard, Ilkley; Tues to Sun 10 to 5 (until Feb 26).

The Nature of Painting (1): Light, an exhibition exploring the painter's use of light, rhythm and imagery; plus recent works by Rama Jana and Michael Whitehead; Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun (until March 3).

Paintings, drawings and sculpture by Leonard McComb, Gallery of Modern Art, 81 Princess Street, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (until March 3).

The other Britain: an exhibition celebrating the twentieth anniversary of *New Society* magazine, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford; Tues to Fri 1 to 5, Sat 1 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (until March 10).

'Autographs' by 43 leading British photographers; opening show of the Cambridge Darkroom Gallery, Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 12 to 8, Sun 12 to 6, closed Mon; (until Feb 12).

Talks, lectures

Orwell's *1984*: Satire or prophecy, by Bernard Crick; Conference Room, L G Harris and Company Ltd., Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, 8.

Music

Concert by the Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet, Harrison House, Harrison Road, Halifax, 7.30.

Viennese evening with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, 7.30.

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia, Polam Hall, Darlington, 7.30.

Kent College concert, Canterbury Cathedral, 7.30.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Member's motion on future provision of welfare services and benefits.

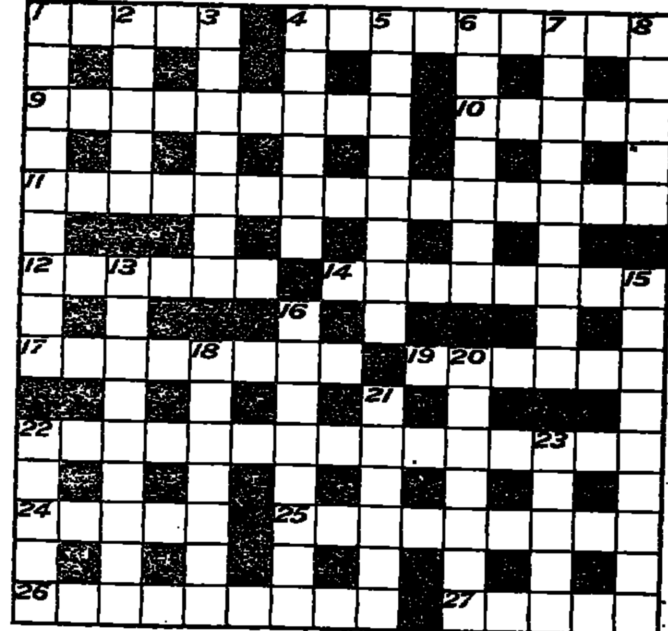
Lords (11): Motion on report by Chairman of Advisory Council for Applied Research and Advisory Board for Research Councils.

Anniversaries

Births: Charles Lamb, London, 1775; Samuel Plimsoll, shipping reformer, Bristol, 1824; Boris Pasternak, poet and novelist (*Doctor Zhivago*), Moscow, 1890.

Deaths: Aleksandr Pushkin, St Petersburg (Leningrad), 1837; David Thompson, explorer and geographer, Longcuil, Montreal, 1857; Sir David Brewster, physicist, Allerby, Melrose, 1868; Joseph, 1st Baron Lister, surgeon and pioneer of antisepsis, Walmer, Kent, 1912; Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, discoverer of X-rays, Nobel laureate 1901, Munich, 1923.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,351



ACROSS

1 Staff character keen to practise deception (5).
4 Poltroonery of commander cut up after conflict (9).
9 Humpback Italian lawyer in arid surroundings (9).
10 Medium number (5).
11 Advocates obtain headquarters intended, say, for a sales area (7, 8).
12 Poem heard to apostrophize Shakespeare? (6).
14 His charges are transferred from bank to bank (8).
17 Little girl – neat and nimble bird (8).
19 Corkscrew for a batsman, maybe (6).
22 Porter's invitation to start before the lay sister? (5, 3, 7).
24 Cook chaff (5).
25 It's a dream! Convert it for the stage (9).
26 Standing that may be put to the test (9).
27 Seasons occurring when sun and moon are attractive? (5).

DOWN

1 A supporter of courses for team managers (9).
2 An affair proper for one's self-esteem in Paris? (5).
3 Bird like a coot – and like certain minstrels? (7).
4 Secret place for girl to weep about (6).
5 Rambler's manner with paying passenger on river (8).
6 Eggs precious, it's said, to a woodland creature (3-4).
7 Fly from one Munich fiasco (9).
8 Rising detergent helps to make white bird (5).
13 Bullet-proof vest for a VIP's escort? (9).
15 Feeble, yet full of confidence (9).
16 Fellows had directions to fish (8).
18 Gambler using second joker (7).
20 Part of chapter on a New Testament spectacular? (7).
21 Pious type formerly supporting alumnus (6).
22 "And slowly answer'd Arthur from the —" (Tennyson) (5).
23 One laid out describing the deeds of Achilles? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,350

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Food prices

The lovely pink early forced rhubarb in the shops now at 40 to 50p a pound is ideal for fools, pies and tarts. Marmalade oranges from Spain, down to 25 to 32p a pound, are coming to an end. All citrus fruits are good value, particularly Jaffa Shamoutis from 6 to 18p each, clementines from 28 to 32p a pound, satsumas from 20 to 30p, Jaffa grapefruit from 7 to 16p each and lemons from 5 to 12p each.

With St Valentine's Day approaching, passion fruit from Kenya at 15 to 20p each are a topical choice. Small pineapples from West Africa are from 55 to 65p each. Strawberries from Carmel, Spain and Kenya are a little cheaper this week at 60 to 85p a punnet. Apples and pears are plentiful: Coxes and Conference are still excellent quality.

Vegetable prices are mostly down because of the better weather. Cauliflowers are a particularly good buy at 40 to 50p each. Brussels sprouts from 18 to 26p a pound and leeks from 36 to 42p are also good value, as are root vegetables, including carrots from 15 to 20p, onions from 14 to 18p, swedes from 15 to 18p and turnips from 15 to 20p a pound. Green peppers are better value than red or yellow at 50 to 75p a pound; aubergines are from 50 to 80p.

There are several beef bargains on offer: for example, Tesco have forerib of beef for £1.58 a pound and shin for £1.48; Safeway have silverside, topside and top rump at £1.96 and minute steak at £2.69; and Sainsburys have fresh mince at 94p a pound. Pork leg joints in Fine Fare are 98p a pound and in Tesco 96p. English lamb prices are high, and New Zealand offers a cheaper alternative: whole shoulder in Dewhurst is from 64 to 89p a pound and whole leg from £1.20 to £1.46.

Easier conditions at sea have meant a fall in fish prices: cod is down to an average of £1.34 a pound, haddock £1.36, plaice £1.51.

EY

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.60	1.52
Austria Sch	28.60	27.00
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.50
Canada $	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.68	13.98
Finland Mkk	8.67	8.27
France Fr	12.30	11.80
Germany DM	4.02	3.84
Greece Dr	162.00	152.00
Hongkong $	11.35	10.75
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.25
Italy Lira	2460.00	2360.00
Japan Yen	348.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.56	4.33
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	201.00	191.00
South Africa Rd	1.94	1.80
Spain Pta	227.00	218.00
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA $	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	210.00	200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 342.8

London: The *FT* Index closed down 3.7 at 801.3.

Roads

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant); delays. A470: Roadworks at Plymouth Street, Merthyr Tydfil, and at Edwardsville, Mid Glamorgan; temporary traffic signals. A30: Resurfacing work on westbound carriageway, Cambourne bypass.

Midlands and East Anglia: A49: Roadworks at Marshbrook, between Shrewsbury and Ludlow; single lane traffic, with traffic signals. A45: Roadworks on Cambridge bypass; lane closures.

North: Liverpool: Queensway Tunnel closed nightly, all traffic is being diverted via the Liverpool to Wallasey tunnel, between 9.15 pm and 5.45 am. A19/A1046: Reconstruction work at Portrack roundabout, north of river Tees. A6: Waterboard work at Slyne Road, Lancaster; single lane traffic with traffic lights.

Scotland: A85: Bridgeworks on Riverside Drive at Tay Railway Bridge, Dundee; westbound carriageway reduced to single lane, no right turn westbound into Riverside approach. A85: Sewer work at Invergowrie; single lane traffic with traffic lights. A82: Landslide repairs at Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire; single lane traffic with traffic signals.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

President Reagan's decision to transfer the US Marines in Beirut to ships offshore was the only common sense alternative after a diplomatic policy failure, major American newspapers said yesterday, but some papers sharply criticized the administration's overall handling of Lebanon.

The **Washington Post** urged President Reagan to avoid the temptation to take such dramatic action in a bid to salvage prestige. The paper added: "Neither the countries that rely on the United States nor those tempted to challenge forces relying on the United States can fail to take the sombre results in Lebanon into their future calculations".

The paper commented: "It is not the administration's or the country's finest hour". But said it would be wrong to regard the failed US peace effort as a disaster for US policy elsewhere in the middle east.

"The United States needs undramatic steadiness in the Middle East. That is what has been missing," the paper concluded.

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1 (–) Scarface
2 (1) Sudden Impact
3 (2) Gorky Park
4 (3) Trading Places
5 (4) The Honorary Consul
6 (5) Never Say Never Again
7 (–) Lianna
8 (9) La Traviata
9 (8) Sahara
10 (6) First Name Carmen

Top five in the provinces:
1 Sudden Impact
2 Gorky Park
3 The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol
4 Trading Places
5 La Traviata

Screen International

Weather forecast

An area of high of pressure near Britain will keep most parts dry with some sunshine

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Anglia: Variable cloud, hazy sunshine at times, becoming misty later; wind variable, light; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Midlands, Wales, Channel Islands, SW, NW, Central S and N England: Patchy hill fog, some drizzle, sunny or clear periods developing in places; wind variable, light; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, sunny or clear periods, fog patches developing later; wind mainly SW, light or moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Dry with hazy sunshine at times, clear intervals and misty later; wind SW moderate, perhaps fresh at times, max temp 7 to 10C (45 to 50F).

NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright at times, some hill fog and drizzle, wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mostly dry, some overnight fog patches and frost.

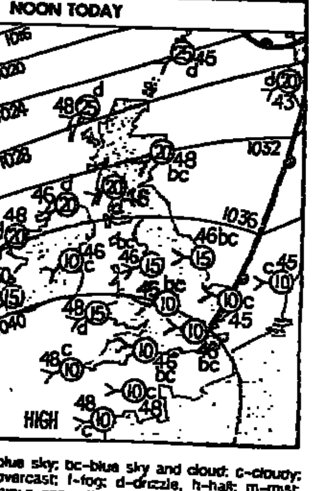
Sea Passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind N, light; sea smooth. **English Channel (E):** Wind variable, light; sea smooth. **St George's Channel, Irish Sea:** Wind, SW, moderate; sea slight.

Sun rises: 7.25 am | Sun sets: 5.5 pm

Moon rises: 10.40 am | Moon sets: 1.13 am

First Quarter: 4.0 am.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



b-blue sky; bc-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; f-fog; d-drizzle; h-hail; m-mist; r-rain; s-snow; th-thunderstorm; p-showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled temperatures fahrenheit.

Lighting-up time

London 5.35 pm to 6.54 am
Bristol 5.45 pm to 7.03 am
Edinburgh 5.34 pm to 7.19 am
Manchester 5.38 pm to 7.07 am
Penzance 6.00 pm to 7.12 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: f, fair; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	4	39	Guernsey	f	7	45
Birmingham	s	7	45	Inverness	f	5	41
Blackpool	s	7	45	Jersey	f	7	45
Bristol				London	s	8	46
Cardiff	s	8	46	Manchester	s	7	45
Edinburgh	f	4	39	Newcastle	s	6	43
Glasgow	f	7	45	Ronaldsway	s	7	45

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, Newquay, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aviemore, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall, 0.08in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, Southsea, 8.7hr.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (49F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 68 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 8.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,036.0 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Leith	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liverpool	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lowestoft	2.50	2.1	3.18	[illegible]
Margate	4.42	4.1	5.25	[illegible]
Milford Haven	11.15	5.6	11.40	[illegible]
Newquay	10.13	5.6	10.39	[illegible]
Oban	10.56	3.1	10.53	[illegible]
Penzance	9.19	4.8	10.02	[illegible]
Portland	11.10	1.5	11.39	[illegible]
Portsmouth	4.15	4.0	4.37	[illegible]
Shoreham	3.45	5.0	4.12	[illegible]
Southampton	3.58	3.9	4.21	[illegible]
Swansea	11.18	7.7	11.43	[illegible]
Tees	9.05	4.2	9.15	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	4.21	3.5	5.05	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	7.4	–	8	46	Sunny
Bridlington	7.5	–	8	46	Sunny
Cromer	6.1	.01	5	41	Sunny
Lowestoft	4.3	–	7	45	Sunny
Clacton	7.3	–	7	45	Sunny
Margate	–	–	7	45	Sunny
Folkestone	8.2	–	8	46	Sunny
Hastings	8.3	–	9	48	Sunny
Eastbourne	8.4	–	9	48	Sunny
Brighton	–	–	7	45	Sunny
Worthing	8.4	–	9	48	Sunny
Littlehmptn	8.5	–	9	48	Sunny
Bognor R	8.7	–	9	48	Sunny
Southsea	8.7	–	9	48	Sunny
Shanklin	8.3	–	8	46	Sunny
Bournemouth	8.2	–	9	48	Sunny
Poole	8.4	–	9	48	Sunny
Swanage	8.3	–	9	48	Sunny
Weymouth	8.2	–	10	50	Sunny
Exmouth	8.4	–	9	48	Sunny
Torquay	8.4	–	10	50	Sunny
Falmouth	7.0	–	9	48	Sunny
Penzance	6.1	–	11	52	Sunny
Jersey	8.1	–	9	48	Sunny

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Guernsey	7.3	–	9	48	Sunny
Scilly Isles	7.5	–	12	54	Sunny
Newquay	7.2	–	9	48	Sunny
Ilfracombe	–	–	–	–	
Tenby	7.2	–	9	48	Sunny
Southport	6.6	–	8	46	Sunny
Morecambe	9.0	–	7	45	Sunny
Douglas	5.1	.02	8	46	Bright
London (Ctrl)	8.2	–	9	48	Sunny
B'ham (Airpt)	7.4	–	8	46	Sunny
Bristol (Ctrl)	7.7	–	9	48	Sunny
Cardiff (Ctrl)	8.2	–	9	48	Sunny
Anglesey	7.6	–	9	48	Sunny
B'pool (Airpt)	7.7	–	7	45	Sunny
Manchester	7.6	–	8	46	Sunny
Nottingham	8.2	–	8	46	Sunny
N'ctl-n-Tyne	7.9	–	8	45	Sunny
Carlisle	7.8	–	7	45	Sunny
Eskdalemuir	7.3	–	7	45	Sunny
Prestwick	3.1	–	7	45	Sunny
Glasgow	2.8	–	8	48	Bright
Tiree	0.1	–	8	46	Rain pm
Stornoway	–	.02	8	46	Rain
Lerwick	0.7	.01	5	41	Rain pm

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	12	54	Chicago*	s	2	28	Luxembg	f	4	39	Riyadh	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Akrotiri	f	18	64	Cologne	f	5	41	Madrid	f	13	55	Rio de Jan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alexandria	f	19	65	Copenhgn	c	3	37	Majorca	c	13	55	Rome	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	c	13	55	Corfu	f	14	57	Malaga	s	21	70	Salzburg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amsterdam	s	6	43	Dallas*	c	10	50	Melbourne	s	20	68	Sao Paulo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	c	15	59	Dublin	f	6	43	Mexico C*	d	11	52	S Francisco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bahrain	s	22	72	Dubrovnik	r	4	39	Miami*	c	20	68	Seoul	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barbados*	c	26	82	Florence	s	13	55	Milan	s	11	52	Singapore	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	c	15	59	Frankfurt	s	2	36	Montreal*	f	14	7	Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	f	17	63	Funchal	c	16	61	Munich	sn	1	34	Strasbourg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belgrade	c	3	37	Geneva	sn	3	37	Nairobi	s	29	84	Sydney	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Berlin	c	3	37	Gibraltar	s	18	64	Naples	c	10	50	Tangier	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bermuda*	r	15	59	Helsinki	c	2	28	New Delhi	s	18	64	Tel Aviv	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	c	10	50	Hongkong	c	13	55	New York*	s	2	28	Tenerife	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boulogne	f	5	41	Innsbruck	s	+1	30	Nice	c	15	59	Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bordeaux	f	9	48	Istanbul	f	14	57	Oslo	s	3	27	Toronto	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	f	7	45	Jeddah	s	25	77	Paris	c	7	45	Valencia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Budapest	f	3	37	Jo'burg	f	28	82	Peking	s	2	36	Vancouver	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Buen Aires*	s	28	82	Karachi	s	23	73	Perth	s	36	97	Venice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cairo	s	21	70	Las Palmas	s	19	66	Prague	c	1	34	Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cape Tn	s	23	73	Locarno	c	4	39	Reykjavik	c	4	39	Warsaw	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
C'blanca	c	16	61	L Angeles*	r	3	37	Rhodes	f	15	61	Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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